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Trump pick for national intelligence director is withdrawing

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's pick for national intelligence director, Texas Rep. John Ratcliffe, withdrew from consideration Friday after just five days as he faced growing questions about his experience and qualifications. The move underscored the uncertainty over his confirmation prospects. Democrats openly dismissed the Republican congressman as an unqualified partisan and Republicans offered only lukewarm and tentative expressions of support. The announcement leaves the intelligence community without a permanent, Senate-confirmed leader at a time when the U.S. government is grappling with North Korea's nuclear ambitions, the prospect of war with Iran and the anticipated efforts of Russia or other foreign governments to interfere in the American political system.

Continued on Page 3



In this Wednesday, July 24, 2019, file photo, Rep. John Ratcliffe, R-Texas., questions former special counsel Robert Mueller as he testifies before the House Intelligence Committee hearing on his report on Russian election interference, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

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U.S. to test new missile as arms treaty with Russia ends

By **ROBERT BURNS** and **DEB RIECHMANN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the scrapping of a landmark arms control agreement Friday, the U.S. announced plans to test a new missile amid growing concerns about emerging threats and new weapons. U.S. officials said they are no longer hamstrung and could now develop weapons systems previously banned under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty with Russia, a Cold War-era agreement that both sides repeatedly accused the other of violating. The treaty was also criticized because it did not cover China or missile technology that did not exist a generation ago.

The end of the treaty comes amid rising doubts about whether the two countries will extend an agreement on long-range nuclear weapons scheduled to expire in 2021. President Donald Trump said he has been discussing a new agreement to reduce nuclear weapons with China



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo attends the East Asia Summit meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

and Russia. "And I will tell you China was very, very excited about talking about it and so was Russia," Trump told reporters. "So I think we'll have a deal at some point." The Trump administration, which gave its six-month

notice on Feb. 2 of its pending withdrawal from the INF, had repeatedly said Russia was violating its provisions, an accusation President Barack Obama made as well.

"The United States will not remain party to a treaty that is deliberately violated by Russia," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in announcing the formal withdrawal, calling a Russian missile system prohibited under the agreement a "direct threat to the United States and our allies." The end of the INF, which comes as world powers seek to contain the nuclear threat from Iran and North Korea, is another milestone in the deterioration of relations between the U.S. and Russia.

"The denunciation of the INF treaty confirms that the U.S. has embarked on destroying all international agreements that do not suit them for one reason or another," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "This leads to the actual dismantling of the existing arms control system."

A senior administration official downplayed the upcoming U.S. weapons test, saying it was not meant to be a provocation. The official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss

the test flight, said the U.S. is "years away" from effectively deploying weapons previously banned under the agreement.

But the U.S. might eventually want to base such weapons in Europe as a counterbalance to Russia, or in Asia to counter China.

The central issue with the INF was that both Russia and the U.S. had long accused the other of cheating on the treaty, which banned land-based missiles of ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers (310 and 3,410 miles).

The U.S. said the noncompliant missile systems the Russians fielded gave Moscow an advantage over NATO forces in Europe.

The Obama administration in 2014 first publicly accused Moscow of violating the INF by testing a treaty-busting cruise missile, and the Trump administration pressed the accusation. Russia denies it has cheated, and counters with a contention that America's armed drones and missile defense system in Europe are violations.

U.S. military officials have said 95% of China's ballistic and cruise missiles would have violated the treaty.

"Since the strategic environment has changed rapidly since the end of the

Cold War, we need to find ways to use arms control to address the rise of China's nuclear arsenal, the increase of Russia's non-strategic weapons stockpiles, and the emergence of new technologies like hypersonic weapons," said Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Chinese U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun on Friday challenged what he said were efforts to make his country "an excuse" for the demise of the treaty: "You know, the United States is saying China should be a party in this disarmament agreement, but I think everybody knows that China is not at the same level with the United States and the Russian Federation."

The point of arms control is to limit or stop a competition in weapons that, if left unconstrained, could endanger not just the big powers but much of the rest of the world. Nuclear weapons are the clearest example of this, but advances in technology, the rise of China and the spread of nuclear capabilities to smaller countries like North Korea have complicated the problem.

That is one reason many in the Trump administration argue that extending the New START agreement with Russia, which is set to expire in February 2021, might not make sense. It is the only remaining treaty constraining the U.S. and Russian nuclear arsenals.

New START imposes limits on the number of U.S. and Russian long-range nuclear warheads and launchers. The deal was made in 2010, but the limits didn't take effect until 2018.

Trump has called New START "just another bad deal" made by the Obama administration, and Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, said in June it is unlikely the administration will agree to the five-year extension to New START that the treaty allows and which can be done without legislative action in either capital. □

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National security adviser John Bolton speaks to media at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

Associated Press

Bolton to attend Aug. 6 meeting in Peru about Venezuela

By LUIS ALONSO LUGO

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. national security adviser and commerce secretary will lead the American delegation at an initial conference of nations that recognize Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó as his country's president, a senior administration official said Friday.

The official said security adviser John Bolton will talk about the next steps for U.S. policy regarding Venezuela's political and economic crisis, while Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross will share a plan focused on reconstruction in the South American country once President Nicolás Maduro is no longer in power.

The official insisted on speaking anonymously because he was not authorized to talk to reporters about the U.S. effort.

The Aug. 6 meeting in Peru's capital will include representatives from over 50 nations which hold that Maduro's re-election last year was fraudulent. Russia, Cuba and Turkey, which back Venezuela's socialist government, declined an invitation to attend.

The official expressed skepticism about the sincerity of

Maduro about reaching an agreement in current talks with the opposition. Representatives of the two sides met for several days earlier this month in Barbados.

The opposition is pushing for an early presidential election. Maduro has resisted calls to step down and has accused his opponents of stirring up violence in once prosperous Venezuela.

The official said that if Maduro does not accept an exit plan within the next two weeks, the United States will mount an "insurmountable" pressure on him to give up power, but declined to provide any specific details.

The Trump administration has already included Maduro and more than 100 Venezuelan officials and insiders on its sanctions list. It has also moved to choke off revenue from the sale of oil by Venezuela, which is home to world's largest crude reserves.

Foreign ministers of countries that make up part of a so-called Lima Group have met periodically since 2017 to discuss Venezuela's crisis, but next week's gathering will be its first International Conference for Democracy in Venezuela. □



President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before departing the White House in Washington, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, for the short trip to Andrews Air Force Base and onto his Bedminster, N.J., golf club.

Associated Press

In a tweet Friday, Trump said Ratcliffe had decided to stay in Congress so as to avoid "months of slander and libel."

Trump didn't cite specific media reports, though multiple stories in the last week have questioned Ratcliffe's qualifications and suggested that he had misrepresented his experience as a federal prosecutor in Texas. Ratcliffe is a frequent Trump defender who fiercely questioned former special counsel Robert Mueller during a House Judiciary Committee hearing last week.

Even as Mueller laid bare concerns that Russia was working to interfere with U.S. elections again, Ratcliffe remained focused on the possibility that U.S. intelligence agencies had overly relied on unverified opposition research in investigating the Trump campaign's ties to Russia.

In his own statement, Ratcliffe said he remained convinced that he could have done the job "with the objectivity, fairness and integrity that our intelligence agencies need and deserve."

"However," he added, "I do not wish for a national security and intelligence debate surrounding my confirmation, however untrue, to become a purely political and partisan issue."

Ratcliffe would have replaced former intelligence director Dan Coats, who

repeatedly clashed with Trump and announced his resignation a week ago.

The White House in recent days fielded a number of calls from Republicans wary of Ratcliffe's confirmation chances and uncomfortable with his qualifications, according to two administration officials not authorized to speak publicly about private conversations.

Several news stories in recent days called into question aspects of Ratcliffe's resume and career, alarming some in the GOP, while a few key Republican senators already greeted his nomination with a lukewarm response.

Taking their cue from the president's instinct to push back against the media and fight for problematic nominees, White House officials initially planned to rally around the choice. But Ratcliffe himself expressed concern to the West Wing about the scrutiny, the administration officials said.

They said that though the president long admired Ratcliffe's interviews in which he defended the White House, as well as his performance in the Mueller hearings, Trump grew convinced that the nomination battle would become a distraction - and was quick, as he often is, to blame the media for treating his administration unfairly.

The scuttled nomination

deepened questions about the White House's seemingly haphazard vetting process, but Trump brushed aside those concerns, even crediting the media for its role in the process.

"You vet for me. I like when you vet ... I think the White House has a great vetting process.

You vet for me," Trump said. "When I give a name, I give it out to the press and you vet for me. A lot of times you do a very good job. Not always."

North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said in a statement that he respects Ratcliffe's decision and he is committed to moving the official nomination through committee. "There is no substitute for having a Senate-confirmed director in place to lead our Intelligence Community," Burr said.

Until then, lawmakers have privately and publicly urged Trump to put Sue Gordon, Coats' No. 2, in charge once Coats steps down. But it's unclear whether he will. Trump told reporters Friday that "certainly she will be considered" for the acting director position.

For Coats' permanent replacement, Trump told reporters that he has a list of three people he's working on over the weekend, and "probably Monday I'll give you an answer." □



Retirement of only black House Republican jars GOP for 2020

WASHINGTON (AP) — The only black House Republican, a critic of President Donald Trump, has joined a growing list of GOP lawmakers not seeking reelection next year, jarring the party's efforts to woo minority voters and recapture House control.

Rep. Will Hurd, a moderate Texan who's split with Trump over race and immigration, became the ninth House Republican to say they'll depart, the sixth in just over a week. Those retirements — and Republicans say there are more to come — will only complicate the GOP's pathway to gaining the minimum 18 seats it will need to grab the chamber's majority in the November 2020 elections.

Hurd, 41, personifies some problems his party faces as the campaign season gears up: He's among several junior lawmakers to abruptly abandon vulnerable seats and is a visible symbol of the GOP's struggle to shed its image as a bastion for white males.

While the former CIA agent's written announcement late Thursday said he was pursuing an opportunity in technology and national security, he added, "I



Associated Press

will stay involved in politics to grow a Republican Party that looks like America."

Hurd's exit put the GOP ahead of its pace when 34 of its members declined to seek re-election in 2018 — the party's most retirements since at least 1930. It also underscored a distaste among many Republicans for life as the House minority party, today's razor-sharp partisanship and Trump's tantrums and tweets.

Republicans say they don't

expect this election's retirements to reach last year's levels. But the recent departures put perhaps four additional GOP seats in play and suggests an underlying unease within the party.

"There's a mood of tremendous frustration with the lack of accomplishment," Rep. Paul Mitchell, R-Mich., said in an interview this week, days after stunning colleagues when he said he's leaving after just two

House terms. Mitchell, 62, blamed leaders of both parties for prioritizing politics over problem solving. Mitchell also criticized Trump's tweets last month telling four Democratic congresswomen of color — including his Michigan colleague, Rep. Rashida Tlaib — to "go back" to their home countries, though all are American. The tweet was "below the behavior of leadership that will lead this country to a better place,"

Mitchell said.

Hurd's district, which he's represented for three terms, skirts the Mexican border and is majority Hispanic. While he said he's "taken a conservative message to places that don't often hear it," Democrats consider it a prime pickup opportunity. Gina Ortiz Jones, the Democrat he narrowly defeated in 2018, is already campaigning.

Hurd was a leader in a failed bipartisan effort last year, opposed by Trump, to help young immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally stay in this country. He was also among four Republicans to last month back a Democratic condemnation of Trump's "go back" insult as racist.

In another blow to the GOP's reach for diversity, it is losing two of the 13 House Republicans who are women to retirement. Rep. Martha Roby of Alabama, 43, like Michigan's Mitchell, is vacating a deeply red seat, while the retirement of Susan Brooks, 58, could put her Indiana seat at risk. Also abandoning competitive seats are Reps. Rob Woodall of Georgia, 49, and Pete Olson of Texas, 56. □

More than half of House Dems support impeachment probe

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than half of House Democrats support launching an impeachment inquiry, according to a tally by The Associated Press — a strong signal of ongoing liberal frustration with President Donald Trump but a milestone that seems unlikely to move House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Rep. Salud Carbajal of California said Friday that he would support such an inquiry — the beginning of proceedings that could lead up to an impeachment vote — tipping the tally to 118, or a majority of the 235 House Democrats. But Pelosi has remained steadfast that she wants to finish investigations that are



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., left, joins Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on the way to sign the budget package just passed in the Senate to permit the government to resume borrowing to pay all of its obligations and would remove the prospect of a government shutdown in October, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

already underway before making a final decision. She has signaled since she became speaker in Janu-

ary that she is unwilling to move toward impeachment without a groundswell of public support.

In a statement Friday, after Carbajal announced his support, Pelosi did not directly address the calls for an impeachment probe, instead repeating her mantra that Democrats will continue to "legislate, investigate and litigate."

"The President will be held accountable," she said.

Impeachment supporters had hoped that former special counsel Robert Mueller's testimony last month would be the tipping point, and more than two dozen Democrats have called for a beginning to proceedings since then. But those calls were muddled by House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler's assertion that the committee is essentially already doing the work of impeachment, with or with-

out a formal House vote.

"Too much has been made of the phrase 'impeachment inquiry,'" Nadler said last week, noting the panel's ongoing probes of the president and his associates.

Still, the calls for an inquiry show a growing dissatisfaction among members of the caucus, even among some of Pelosi's allies, with what is being done to stop what they see as egregious behavior by the president.

The calls for impeachment grew not only after Mueller's testimony, which detailed episodes in which Trump attempted to stop the Russia investigation, but also after Trump's racist tweets last month urging four female House Democrats of color to "go back" to where they came from. □



In this June 2, 2016 file photo, a missing poster for the remaining "Inverted Jenny," one of four rare 1918 stamps featuring an airplane printed upside-down and stolen in 1955, is displayed at the World Stamp Show, in New York.

Associated Press

Experts stamp out Iowa museum hopes: 'Inverted Jenny' a fake

By MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Hopes by a small aviation museum in southwestern Iowa that a stamp in its possession was rare enough to parlay a potential fortune crashed Friday when experts told them it wasn't real, and likely not even worth the paper it was glued upon.

The Iowa Aviation Museum in Greenfield, Iowa, has had what it thought was a 1918 "Inverted Jenny" stamp on public display for some 20 years, dating back to when it was donated to the museum, glued to a board along with several other stamps. A notation from the donor attached to the board speculated then that it was worth about \$73,000.

Experts at the national stamp convention meeting in Omaha knew immediately the stamp wasn't authentic, said Ken Martin with the American Philatelic Society that's holding the show through Sunday. "It wasn't the right size. It was too small," Martin said. "This version was likely cut out of a postage stamp auction catalog."

An examination under a microscope confirmed experts' initial doubt. A 100-year-old stamp would have been printed from an artist's engraving, so the im-

age under a microscope would appear as a series of lines.

A reproduction for printed material decades later would have been comprised of a series of tiny dots, which is what appeared under the scope, Martin said.

The news was disappointing for those at the museum, which also serves as the home of the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame and had hoped to auction the stamp for hundreds of thousands of dollars and build a new museum hangar.

"We really didn't know what we had," Larry Konz, a tour guide at the museum, said Friday. "When we were told that we might have the real deal, I thought, 'My God, we might have something quite valuable here, and we've had it hanging on a wall all this time.'"

Had it been real, it would be worth between \$300,000 and \$400,000 at auction, Martin said. There were only 100 of the stamps printed in 1918, with the image of a JN-4-H "Jenny" biplane accidentally displayed upside-down on a 24-cent stamp.

"I knew it was probably a slim chance of it being genuine, given how rare that stamp is," she said. "But, boy, it sure would have been exciting if it had been." □

California festival gunman killed himself, officials say

By STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The gunman who opened fire on a California food festival killed himself after officers shot him multiple times, officials said Friday, correcting previous police accounts that the officers fired the fatal bullet.

Police gave the update soon after the Santa Clara County Medical Examiner-Coroner's Office said 19-year-old Santino William Legan died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Legan killed three people — including two children — and injured 13 others at the popular Gilroy Garlic Festival on Sunday. Authorities say they have not yet been able to determine his motive.

Gilroy Police Chief Scot Smithee told reporters that the timeline remains the same: Three veteran police officers responded in less than a minute and fired multiple rounds when Legan turned his AK-47-style semi-automatic rifle on them. Smithee said the officers hit him multiple times and he fell to the ground with the rifle.

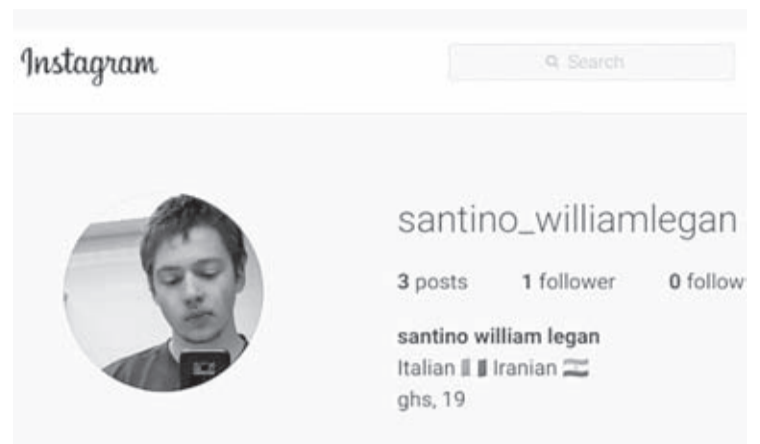
"He was able to get one more round off, and he was able to shoot himself in the head," the police chief said.

Smithee said he was "a little surprised" to hear that Legan had shot himself.

"I don't think that changes anything about the heroics of our officers," Smithee said.

The chief did not know how many times police fired at him, or how many bullets struck him. A full coroner's report is pending.

Legan killed 6-year-old Stephen Romero and 13-year-old Keyla Salazar of San Jose, along with Trevor Irby, 25, of Romulus, New York, on the last day of the long-running festival. It draws more than 100,000 people with music, food booths and cooking classes to the city roughly 80 miles (129 kilometers) southeast of San



This screenshot of Santino William Legan's Instagram account shows a selfie of Legan, who opened fire with an "assault-type rifle" on Sunday, July 28, 2019, at the Gilroy Garlic Festival in Gilroy, Calif., killing two children and another man.

Associated Press

Francisco.

John Bennett, the FBI's special agent in charge in San Francisco, has said Legan did not appear to be targeting a particular group and that he did not seem to follow a specific ideology.

Legan's social media raised questions after he urged his Instagram followers on the day of the attack to read a 19th-century book popular with white supremacists on extremist websites. Profilers were working to de-

termine a motive through interviews and combing through physical and digital evidence.

Officials say their investigation has not shown that anyone else was involved. But authorities arrested a man earlier this week on suspicion of making threats online that apparently referenced the deadly shooting. Jose Pinon, 40, of Gilroy, posted Wednesday on Facebook that "my goal is to kill 500, not three," Gilroy police said. □

NYPD judge recommends firing officer in Eric Garner death

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — In a reckoning five years in the making, an administrative judge on Friday recommended firing a New York City police officer over the 2014 chokehold death of an unarmed black man whose dying cries of "I can't breathe" fueled a national debate over policing, race and the use of force.

The city's police commissioner will make a final decision this month on whether to fire Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who is white, for his role in Eric Garner's death. Pantaleo was suspended shortly after the judge's decision became public, about two weeks after federal prosecutors closed the book on criminal charges.

Mayor Bill de Blasio hailed the judge's report as "a step toward justice and accountability," while Pantaleo's lawyer and a union leader said it penalized an officer for properly doing his job. The lawyer said he will appeal to state court if Pantaleo is fired.

Garner's mother, Gwen Carr, said the report brought her "some relief" but was overdue and fell short of true accountability. "It's past time for Mayor Bill de Blasio and the NYPD to end their obstruction, stop spreading misleading talking points and finally take action for my son," she said in a statement.



In this May 13, 2019, file photo, New York City Police Officer Daniel Pantaleo leaves his house in the Staten Island borough of New York.

Associated Press

Garner's death came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men that sparked the national Black Lives Matter movement. Just weeks later, protests erupted in Ferguson, Missouri, over the fatal shooting of unarmed teenager Michael Brown.

When a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo on state charges in December 2014, demonstrations flared in New York and several other cities.

The administrative judge's findings were provided Friday to Pantaleo's lawyer and the Civilian Complaint

Review Board, the watchdog agency that acted as a prosecutor at his department trial last spring.

Under department rules, Pantaleo's lawyer will have about two weeks to respond before Police Commissioner James O'Neill makes his decision.

The attorney, Stuart London, said Pantaleo, 33, was disappointed in the judge's recommendation but remains "cautiously optimistic" he ultimately won't be dismissed.

London and Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch urged O'Neill to stand up for Pantaleo,

saying he'd done nothing wrong and that firing him would leave officers feeling they can't do their jobs without losing them.

"We're calling on Commissioner O'Neill to save the New York Police Department. Allow us to be effective again," Lynch said.

Lynch said that, given the decision, police officers might be considered reckless every time they put their hands on someone. He urged officers to keep responding to 911 calls but "take it a step slower" and call for a supervisor instead of using physical force on an uncooperative suspect.

Police department spokesman Phillip Walzak said Pantaleo's suspension was standard in disciplinary cases in which termination is recommended. He wouldn't comment further.

The administrative judge, Deputy Commissioner of Trials Rosemarie Maldonado, had been tasked with deciding whether Pantaleo used a chokehold — banned by police department policy — to take Garner to the ground during a confrontation on a Staten Island street.

Pantaleo's lawyers argued he used an approved "seat belt" technique to subdue Garner, who refused to be handcuffed after officers accused him of selling untaxed cigarettes.

London said that while Maldonado found that a chokehold was used, she concluded in her 45-page report that a lot of the contact with the neck was accidental and unintentional. The report has not been made public.

In a bystander's video, it appeared that Pantaleo initially tried to use two approved restraint tactics on Garner, much larger at 6-foot-2 (188 centimeters) and about 400 pounds (180 kilograms), but ended up wrapping his arm around Garner's neck for about seven seconds as they struggled against a glass storefront window and fell to the sidewalk. □

Police: Rookie Texas officer shoots at dog, kills woman

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

A rookie Texas police officer accidentally shot and killed a woman behind a shopping plaza when he fired repeatedly at a dog believed to be hers that was running at him, authorities said Friday.

The officer in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, who was released from supervised duty on July 1, responded to a welfare check Thursday about a woman who appeared to be passed out in a grassy area behind the plaza. Footage from the officer's body-worn cam-

era released Friday shows the officer walking along a sidewalk and calling out, "Hello. Are you OK?"

The woman replies, "Yeah, I'm fine." A dog approaches and the officer asks, "Is that your dog?"

As the barking dog runs toward him, the officer yells, "Get back!" He begins to back up and then fires three shots. The woman screams, "Oh, my God!" and continues to cry out.

Police Chief Will Johnson said at a news conference that the dog, which he described as a Labrador mix,

weighed about 40 pounds. Investigators think the dog belonged to the woman, who the Tarrant County medical examiner's office identified as 30-year-old Margarita Victoria Brooks.

Brooks was shot in the "upper torso," Johnson said. The dog suffered a flesh wound and has been quarantined, the chief said.

"Everything about this call is an absolute tragedy," a somber Johnson said. "Our hearts are broken for the Brooks family and for the officer involved. Our officer was on scene trying to find

an individual who may be suffering from a medical emergency. Clearly, this is not the outcome the officer wanted, nor is it the outcome that the department wanted." He said Brooks' family has been shown the body camera video, and that criminal and administrative investigations are underway. The 25-year-old officer, whose name hasn't been released, graduated from the police academy in February and hadn't fired his service weapon in the line of duty before Thursday, Johnson said. He has

been placed on administrative leave.

People who live and work near where the shooting occurred said they often saw Brooks walking with her boyfriend and that the couple appeared to be homeless. They said the pair always had a dog with them. Larry Hamilton told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he lives in a nearby apartment but was homeless for several years and knew Brooks. He said she was "a good-hearted person" who always made sure the dog was fed before she was. □

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RFK granddaughter dies; police awaiting toxicology reports

By WILLIAM J. KOLE
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Authorities said Friday they are looking to toxicology reports for clues to the death of Saoirse Kennedy Hill, the 22-year-old granddaughter of assassinated presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy.

The Kennedy family confirmed the death in a statement after police responded to a call Thursday afternoon about a possible drug overdose at the storied Kennedy compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. The statement was issued by Brian Wright O'Connor, a spokesman for Saoirse Hill's uncle, former congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II.

Hill was the daughter of Robert and Ethel Kennedy's fifth child, Courtney, and Paul Michael Hill, who was one of four people falsely convicted in the 1974 Irish Republican Army bombings of two pubs. The two are now divorced.

"She lit up our lives with her love, her peals of laughter and her generous spirit," the statement said, adding she was passionate about human rights and women's empowerment and worked with indigenous communities to build schools in Mexico.

Hill, whose first name is pronounced SIR-shuh, attended Boston College, where she was a member of the class of 2020. The college issued a statement Friday saying she was a communications major and "a gifted student."

"She was also active in the College Democrats, and

had many friends on the BC campus," spokesman Jack Dunn said.

The Cape & Islands district attorney's office said Barnstable police responded to a home "for a reported unattended death." Barnstable police and Massachusetts State Police detectives were investigating. The district attorney's office said Friday that Hill was taken to Cape Cod Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. It said an autopsy showed no signs of trauma, and that toxicology reports would help determine the cause and manner of death.

The family statement did not include a cause of death, but audio of a Barnstable police scanner call obtained by The Associated Press said officers were responding to a report of a drug overdose at the compound.

"The world is a little less beautiful today," the Kennedy family statement quoted Hill's 91-year-old grandmother and RFK's widow, Ethel Kennedy, as saying.

Hill had written frankly and publicly about her struggles with mental health and a suicide attempt while in high school. "My depression took root in the beginning of my middle school years and will be with me for the rest of my life," she wrote in a February 2016 column in The Deerfield Scroll, the student newspaper at Deerfield Academy, the elite private school in Massachusetts she attended.

Hill wrote that she became depressed two weeks be-



In this Sept. 20, 2016, photo, Saoirse Kennedy Hill, right, granddaughter of Ethel Kennedy and her late husband Robert F. Kennedy, holds a relative's baby before a ceremony for naming the Robert Kennedy Navy Ship at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, in Boston.

Associated Press

fore her high school junior year started and she "totally lost it after someone I knew and loved broke serious sexual boundaries with me." She wrote that she pretended it hadn't happened, and when it became too much, "I attempted to take my own life."

She urged the school to be more open about mental illness.

Hill also helped found a group at the school called Deerfield Students Against Sexual Assault, according to a November 2016 story in the paper, and she attended a March for Our Lives gun violence prevention rally in Barnstable in March

2018, The Barnstable Patriot newspaper reported at the time.

Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down in Los Angeles in 1968 after winning California's Democratic presidential primary. He had served as attorney general in the administration of his brother, President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. He also served as a U.S. senator from New York. RFK's family, like the rest of the Kennedy clan, has been touched by tragedy. One of his and Ethel Kennedy's 11 children, Michael Kennedy, was killed in a skiing accident in Colorado on New Year's Eve 1997 at

age 39. And in 1984, another son, David Anthony Kennedy, died of a drug overdose in Florida at age 28.

JFK's son, John F. Kennedy Jr., was killed with his wife and sister-in-law when his small plane crashed off Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in July 1999.

One of Hill's relatives, former U.S. Rep. Patrick Kennedy, who is now an advocate for substance abuse and mental health treatment, tweeted in tribute to her Friday.

"Saoirse will always remain in our hearts. She is loved and will be deeply missed," he wrote.

Funeral plans were incomplete Friday. □

Pro-EU party wins, cuts Johnson's UK Parliament margin to 1

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Brexit-backing Conservative Party lost a special election Friday to a pro-EU opposition candidate, leaving Johnson with only a one-vote majority in Parliament as the U.K.'s departure from the European Union looms.

In the Conservatives' first electoral test since Johnson became prime minister last month on a vow to complete Brexit "do or die," the party was defeated for the seat of Brecon and Radnorshire in Wales by Jane Dodds of the Liberal Democrats. Dodds won 43% of the vote, against 39% for Conservative Chris Davies, who fought to retain the seat after being convicted and fined for expenses fraud.

Dodds urged the prime minister to rule out leaving the EU without a divorce agreement, saying "a no-deal Brexit would be a disaster" for agricultural areas like her constituency some 175 miles (280 kilometers) west of London.

Sheep farmers in Wales worry that, without a Brexit deal, steep tariffs on lamb exports will devastate their business.

Johnson won a Conservative Party leadership race by vowing that Britain will leave the European Union on Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal. But he faces opposition from Parlia-



Newly-elected Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson, right, and Welsh Liberal Democrat leader Jane Dodds celebrate in Brecon, Wales, after the Liberal Democrats win the Brecon and Radnorshire by-election, Friday Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

ment, and the by-election result makes it even harder for the government to pass laws and win votes in the 90 days before the Brexit deadline.

The outcome also reflects the seismic effect the U.K.'s decision three years ago to leave the 28-nation EU has had on the country's politics, with voters increasingly split into pro-Brexit and pro-EU camps.

The centrist Liberal Democrats have seen their support surge because of their call for the U.K. to remain in the bloc. In European Parliament elections in May,

the party took 20% of U.K. votes, trouncing both the Conservatives and the main opposition Labour Party, whose leadership is divided over Brexit.

Labour won just 5% of the votes in Brecon. The Liberal Democrats made a pact with two other pro-EU parties, which did not run to give Dodds a better chance.

The Conservatives, meanwhile, lost support to the Brexit Party led by longtime euroskeptic figurehead Nigel Farage, which took 10% of the votes.

The Conservatives lack

an overall majority in the House of Commons, and rely on an alliance with 10 lawmakers from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party. The loss of the Brecon seat leaves the governing alliance with 320 of the 639 voting lawmakers — the bare minimum needed to carry votes.

The loss illustrates the risks of Johnson's hard-line stance on Brexit. It comes after a week that saw the new prime minister booed by pro-independence protesters in Scotland, criticized by Welsh farmers and accused by Northern Ireland

politicians of destabilizing the economy and the peace process with his willingness to opt for a no-deal exit.

Johnson insists that he wants a Brexit deal, but is demanding that the EU make major changes to the divorce agreement it struck with his predecessor Theresa May, which was rejected three times by Britain's Parliament. The EU is adamant that it won't re-negotiate.

Johnson argues that a no-deal Brexit will be "vanishingly inexpensive" if Britain prepares properly. This week the government set aside 2 billion pounds (\$2.4 billion) for no-deal measures including more border officers and stockpiling essential medicines.

Economists say no amount of preparation can eliminate the shock if Britain crashes out the EU's single market without a transition period or framework of new trade rules.

A slide prepared for the government outlining worst-case scenarios in the day, week and month after a no-deal Brexit mentioned "potential consumer panic and food shortages" and "possible increased risk of serious organized crime including people smuggling and illegal migration."

The slide was published by Sky News, which said it was drawn up before May left office last month. The government said it would not comment on leaked documents.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said a no-deal Brexit would deliver an "instantaneous shock" to the economy in which the pound would fall, prices would rise, GDP would slow and many businesses could face ruin.

"There are some very big industries in this country where that which is highly profitable becomes not profitable, becomes uneconomic, and very difficult decisions will need to be taken," Carney told the BBC on Friday. Meanwhile a volatile political situation has become even more unpredictable. □

Freedom sought for US teen jailed in Rome police slaying



Ethan Elder, father of Finnegan Lee Elder, in custody for the slaying of Carabinieri officer Mario Cerciello Rega, leaves Regina Celi prison in Rome after seeing his son, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — A lawyer for one of two American teens

jailed in the investigation of an Italian police officer's slaying has petitioned for

his client's release.

Francesco Petrelli said Friday he didn't know when a tribunal would hear the appeal, filed a day earlier, on behalf of Gabriel Christian Natale-Hjorth, 18.

Natale-Hjorth and fellow Californian Finnegan Lee Elder, 19, are being held in a Rome jail while prosecutors probe the slaying of an unarmed officer, Mario Cerciello Rega, who was knifed 11 times on July 26.

Prosecutors contend Elder stabbed the officer during a scuffle while Natale-Hjorth allegedly punched and kicked the officer's

partner. The plainclothes officers were investigating an alleged extortion attempt by the teens involving a stolen knapsack.

Prosecutors say Elder claims self-defense and that both teens say they didn't realize the two men were police officers.

Elder's father, Ethan Elder, said in a statement after a jailhouse visit with his son on Friday: "It was good to see Finnegan, who is struggling but holding up." The statement said family members were working with the young man's lawyers to "establish all the facts." □

Airstrikes halt in Syria's Idlib as truce goes into effect

By BASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian government airstrikes halted on Friday in the country's north-west after a truce went into effect there, but ground fire killed at least one person in a government-held village near President Bashar Assad's hometown, state media and opposition activists said.

The conditional cease-fire began at midnight Thursday, according to Syrian state media quoting an unnamed military official.

The reports said the rebels will have to retreat 20 kilometers (12.5 miles) from demilitarized areas around the stronghold that were agreed to in a cease-fire deal reached last September. That deal fell apart in April as Assad's forces launched an assault on Idlib, the last rebel stronghold in the country, which has killed hundreds and displaced more than 400,000 people.

The al-Qaida-linked Hayat



This Saturday, July 27, 2019 file photo provided by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows a Syrian man carrying an injured girl after an airstrike hit the northern town of Ariha, in Idlib province, Syria.

Associated Press

Tahrir al-Sham, the most powerful rebel group in Idlib, said the government declared the cease-fire because it wasn't able to advance into rebel-held

areas during its recent offensive "without resorting to a scorched-earth policy." The group said that it would abide by the cease-fire but has "the right to retaliate" if

the government attacks.

The rebel stronghold is dominated by al-Qaida-linked militants and other jihadi groups. It's home to some 3 million people,

many of them internally displaced by fighting in other parts of Syria.

The Syrian state news agency SANA said rebels fired five rockets into a village near Assad's hometown of Qardaha, killing one civilian and wounding three others.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Idlib was witnessing "cautious calm" on Friday as warplanes stopped flying over the province. The Observatory, which monitors Syria's war through a network of activists on the ground, also said government forces fired about 50 shells in the morning hours at rebel-held villages in northern parts of the central province of Hama.

Ahmad Sheikho of the opposition Syrian Civil Defense volunteers, also known as White Helmets, said that since midnight there were "no warplanes in the air" but that artillery shelling continued. □

Notre Dame: Lead fears prompt new cleanup rules, equipment

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Cleanup work at fire-ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral will resume later this month but under stricter lead-protection rules, amid growing public concern about toxic pollution.

Under pressure from labor inspectors concerned about lead risks, the Paris region administration suspended cleanup work at the cathedral last week, and ordered new checks of schools and nurseries in the neighborhood.

The administration announced in a statement Friday that workers will be allowed back starting Aug. 12, but in smaller numbers and with tougher new decontamination measures and equipment "to prevent any release of polluting elements to the outside."

Critics say authorities didn't move fast enough to protect workers and residents when the cathedral's massive lead roof and spire melted in the April fire,



Workers dressed in white overalls walk past the Notre Dame Cathedral, in Paris, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, as the preliminary work begins to repair the fire damage.

Associated Press

spewing toxic dust into the Paris air.

A lawsuit has been filed, and a union-led collective is demanding the "total confinement" of the site.

Astronomical levels of lead were measured in

the area at the time. And they remain exceptionally high at some spots inside the cathedral, and in soil of the adjacent park and forecourt, according to the Paris regional health agency. Those areas have

been closed to the public since April 15 and are likely to stay that way for years.

No dangerous levels have been registered, however, in nearby streets, where tourists and residents continue to circulate and sou-

venir shops and restaurants have reopened.

The health agency released a 109-page report last month detailing efforts to monitor lead levels among the population and in the soil and nearby buildings. But environmental groups say authorities weren't aggressive or open enough about warning the public about lead levels at the time of the fire.

Children are especially vulnerable to health problems from lead poisoning and exposure, so authorities ordered a deep clean for neighborhood schools and recommended blood tests for children under 7 and pregnant women who live near Notre Dame. The new security measures for the cathedral will limit the number of workers allowed inside at any time to 30-40 instead of the 60-70 currently allowed, at least until new decontamination kits are delivered in the autumn when the pace of work is expected to pick up. □

Saudi Arabia allows women to travel without male consent

By AYA BATRAWY

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia on Friday published new laws that loosen restrictions on women by allowing all citizens — women and men alike — to apply for a passport and travel freely, ending a long-standing guardianship policy that had controlled women's freedom of movement.

The new laws, a potential game-changer for Saudi women's rights, are to go into effect by the end of the month.

The kingdom's legal system has long been criticized because it treated adult women as minors, requiring they have a man's consent to obtain a passport or travel abroad. Often a woman's male guardian is her father or husband, and in some cases a woman's son.

The changes were widely celebrated by Saudis on Twitter, with many posting memes showing people dashing to the airport with luggage and others hailing the 33-year-old crown prince believed to be the force behind these moves. But the changes also drew backlash from conservatives, who posted clips of senior Saudi clerics in past years arguing in favor of guardianship laws.

Other changes issued in the decrees allow women to register a marriage, divorce or a child's birth, and



In this June 22, 2018, file photo, women wait in line to ride go carts at a road safety event for female drivers launched at the Riyadh Park Mall in Riyadh.

Associated Press

obtain official family documents, which could ease hurdles women faced in obtaining a national identity card and enrolling their children in school.

Women are now also allowed to be legal guardians of their children, a right previously held only by men.

Still in place, however, are rules that require male consent for a woman to leave prison, exit a domestic abuse shelter or marry. Women, unlike men, still cannot pass on citizenship to their children and cannot provide consent for their children to marry.

Under the kingdom's

guardianship system, women essentially relied on the "good will" and whims of male relatives to determine the course of their lives. There were cases, for example, of young Saudi women whose parents are divorced, but whose father is the legal guardian, being unable to accept scholarships to study abroad because they did not have permission to travel.

Amnesty International said Friday a lot remains to be done for women's rights in Saudi Arabia but that the new laws could ease the guardianship system. Guardianship laws have "been a stifling system in

the daily lives of women in Saudi Arabia," said Lynn Malouf, Mideast's research director at Amnesty.

"These reforms really are a testament to the work of the brave activism and the suffering and the ordeals" Saudi women and men fought for in their calls for reform, she added.

Saudi women fleeing domestic abuse and the guardianship system occasionally drew international attention to their plight, as 18-year-old Rahaf al-Qununi did before Canada granted her asylum. The stories of runaway women have created a flurry of negative headlines for the

kingdom.

To leave the country, some Saudi women say they had to hack into their father's phone and change the settings on a government app to allow themselves permission to leave the country. There were calls in Washington for Google and Apple to block access to the app entirely.

In a lengthy study of Saudi male guardianship laws in 2016, Human Rights Watch criticized it as "system that was ripe for abuse."

The new rules, approved by King Salman and his Cabinet, allow any person 21 and older to travel abroad without prior consent and any citizen to apply for a Saudi passport on their own.

The decrees, issued Wednesday, were made public before dawn Friday in the kingdom's official weekly *Um al-Qura* gazette. The government said Friday the new rules would be in effect by the end of August.

A number of sweeping changes have been promoted by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as he drives an ambitious economic reform plan that encourages more women to enter the workforce. He was behind lifting the ban on women driving last year, loosening rules on gender segregation and bringing concerts and movie theaters to the country. □

Croatia police say man takes own life after killing 6 people



Police enter the house where a suspect killed six people, including a ten-year-old child, before committing suicide, in Zagreb, Croatia, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP) — A man shot dead six people, including a 10-year-old child, in the capital Zagreb, before killing himself, in what Croatian police identified Friday as domestic violence.

Police found the bodies late Thursday in a quiet neighborhood in Zagreb. In addition to the child, two men and three women were killed. A 7-month old baby was found unharmed.

The man suspected of the killings was subsequently

chased and large parts of the Croatian capital sealed off, police added. He took his own life early Friday as he was about to be caught. Croatian media reported that the suspect's ex-wife and her partner were among the victims.

Head of Zagreb police Marko Rasic identified the suspect as a 36-year-old taxi driver who had a child with one of the victims, the unharmed baby. He said the man had no criminal record and no incidents of domestic violence had previously been reported in

connection with the family. "We haven't so far established a motive, a criminal investigation is underway," Rasic said.

He said that after the car chase, "we asked him to surrender and he came out of the car and committed suicide." Media said neighbors described hearing loud cries before the shots were fired. Zagreb mayor, Milan Bandic, described the attack as an "isolated incident" and a "domestic violence case" as he sought to reassure the residents in the capital. □

China threatens retaliation for Trump's planned tariff hike

By JOE McDONALD

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China on Friday threatened retaliation if U.S. President Donald Trump's planned tariff hikes go ahead, while the renewed acrimony between the two biggest global economies sent stock markets tumbling.

China's government accused Trump of violating his June agreement with President Xi Jinping to revive negotiations aimed at ending a costly fight over Beijing's trade surplus and technology ambitions.

Trump rattled financial markets with Thursday's surprise announcement of 10% tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese imports, effective Sept. 1. That would extend punitive duties to everything the United States buys from China.

If that goes ahead, "China will have to take necessary countermeasures to resolutely defend its core interests," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying.

"We don't want to fight, but we aren't afraid to," Hua said at a regular news briefing. She called on Washington to "abandon its illusions, correct mistakes, and return to consultations based on equality and mutual re-



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, center, poses with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, right, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, for photos before holding talks at the Xijiao Conference Center in Shanghai Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

Associated Press

spect."

Washington and Beijing are locked in a battle over complaints China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. The Trump administration worries American industrial leadership might be threatened by Chinese plans for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technologies. Europe and Japan echo U.S. complaints those

plans violate Beijing's market-opening commitments. Washington earlier imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese products. Beijing has retaliated by raising import duties on \$110 billion of U.S. goods. Beijing is about to run out of American imports for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance.

China imported U.S. goods worth about \$160 billion last year. But regulators

have extended retaliatory measures to include slowing down customs clearance for American companies and putting off issuing license in insurance and other fields.

Beijing also is threatening to release an "unreliable entities" blacklist of foreign companies that might face restrictions on doing business with China. Plans for that were announced after Washington imposed crip-

pling restrictions in May on sales of U.S. technology to Chinese tech giant Huawei Technologies Ltd.

Trump's announcement surprised investors after the White House said Beijing promised to buy more farm goods. It came as their latest trade talks ended in Shanghai with no sign of a deal. Officials said they would resume next month in Washington.

The announcement "is likely to put a comprehensive deal further out of reach," said Fitch Solutions in a report.

Tokyo's main stock market index fell 2.5% by midday and Hong Kong's benchmark lost 2.3%. Markets in Shanghai, Sydney and Seoul also declined.

Earlier on Wall Street, the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 fell for a fourth day, losing 0.9% to 2,953.56. The Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1% to 26,583.42. The Nasdaq composite ended 0.8% lower at 8,111.12.

Also Friday, China's yuan fell to its lowest level this year against the dollar after Trump's tariff threat fueled concerns about slowing economic growth, coming close to breaking the politically sensitive level of seven to the U.S. currency. □

Bill to end death penalty comes as Sri Lanka plans hangings

By KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— A bill to abolish the death penalty has been submitted to Sri Lanka's Parliament, while the president has sanctioned the hanging of four drug convicts.

The bill seems to be a move by Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to stop the planned executions, which are now stayed by the courts.

He and President Maithripala Sirisena formed a unity government in 2015 but have fallen out and become rival power centers within the government.

Lawmaker Bandula Lal Bandarigoda said Friday the bill seeks to abolish the death sentence in the future and

commute the sentences of those who are already on death row to life imprisonment. The bill submitted on Thursday will be taken for a vote in 14 days if no one challenges it.

Speaking at a public event, Sirisena said those who oppose executions in reality oppose building a decent country. He said narcotics are the root cause of all other major crimes and he decided to execute prisoners for the betterment of future generations.

Sirisena announced in June that he has signed the death warrants of four prisoners convicted of drug offenses.

The European Union said Sirisena's move contradicted the government's com-

mitment last year to the U.N. General Assembly to maintain its 43-year moratorium on death penalty. The EU said the planned executions will send the wrong signals to the international community and investors and it will monitor Sri Lanka's commitments to international conventions. Sri Lanka has lucrative market access to the EU through a preferential trade scheme that hinges on those commitments.

After Sirisena's announcement, Wickremesinghe said his party opposes executions because the Sri Lankan government under Sirisena has supported UN resolutions for a moratorium on death penalty in 2016 and 2018.



In this Oct. 3, 2017, file photo, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, left, and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe attend a special session held to mark the country's seventieth anniversary of the first parliament of democracy, in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Associated Press

Sri Lanka has not hanged a prisoner since 1976 even though courts routinely pass death sentences. Prison officials hired two hangmen after Sirisena sanctioned

the executions.

The Supreme Court has stayed the executions until Oct. 30 in response to a petition by a death row inmate. □

900 asylum seekers returned to wait in Mexican border city

By **MARÍA VERZA**
Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP)

— The United States government has sent about 900 mostly Central American and Cuban migrants back to this northern Mexico border city since expanding its controversial "remain in Mexico" program to the easternmost point on the shared border two weeks ago, Mexican authorities say.

They are among nearly 3,000 people with pending U.S. immigration proceedings who have been sent back to wait in Mexico's Tamaulipas state, where the U.S. State Department warns Americans to avoid all travel due to high levels of violence and kidnapping.

Under the program, migrants who turn themselves over to U.S. authorities and, in most cases, request asylum, are returned to Mexico after being given a court date. To pursue their asylum cases they have to wait in Mexico, crossing only for court dates in what is a months-long process.

The program began in January at Tijuana, across from San Diego, and the U.S.



Migrants return to Mexico, using the Puerta Mexico bridge that crosses the Rio Grande river, in Matamoros, Mexico, Wednesday, July 31, 2019, on the border with Brownsville, Texas.

Associated Press

government has been expanding it eastward along the border, seeing it as an effective deterrent to the flood of migrants. U.S. authorities began returning migrants at the Tamaulipas city of Nuevo Laredo, on the border with Laredo, Texas, in early July and a few days later added Matamoros, across from Brownsville.

So far more than 20,000 migrants have been returned

all along the border to wait in Mexico, Mexican officials say.

On Thursday, some 70 migrants walked sullenly with their heads down across the international bridge into Matamoros. They carried their documents in transparent plastic bags and expressed concerns about how they would wait out the process in a state known for powerful organized crime gangs.

"Donald Trump is just returning everyone," said Emilio Cáceres, a 25-year-old Honduran farmer who said he planned go home rather than wait. Cáceres said he previously was deported from the U.S. and therefore did not envisage a successful asylum application even though he was given a hearing date.

Over 100 more returned Friday.

Earlier in the week, Luis Rax-

ic of Guatemala was returned to Matamoros with his wife and 1½-year-old daughter. He had similar thoughts of giving up and going home because he did not want to expose his daughter to the danger of waiting here.

"One of the agents told us very clearly that they were going to deport us, but only to Mexico and not to our country to save money," Raxic said. "It's a strategy to make us scared and so we'll go back."

The U.S. is sending back groups of 50 to 100 migrants almost daily to Matamoros, the Tamaulipas state immigration office says.

Mexico began busing some of the returned migrants out of Tamaulipas to the city of Monterrey in neighboring Nuevo Leon state last month. Authorities said it was for their safety, but many were dropped off in that unfamiliar city in the middle of the night. It was unclear how they would return to the border for their court dates.

Raxic waited for the bus to Monterrey, saying from there his family would look for a way back to Guatemala. □

Brazil president threatens officers over deforestation data

By **MAURICIO SAVARESE**

SAO PAULO (AP) — President Jair Bolsonaro threatened on Thursday to dismiss officers at the Brazilian agency that monitors deforestation in the Amazon over its publication of data he disagrees with.

Bolsonaro repeated his charge that members of the INPE federal agency might have manipulated deforestation figures to make his administration look bad, adding that he will fire immediately any officer that provided figures he deems as "doubtful."

The agency reported recently that 920 square kilometers (370 square miles) of Amazon forest was lost in June, a spike of 88% from the amount of deforestation the same month last year.



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro, front, and his Environment Minister Ricardo Salles prepare to give a press conference on deforestation in the Amazon at the Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

"I don't want to infer, start talking about possible links to this or that, personal matters. But (the figures) are very odd," Bolsonaro said.

The head of INPE, Ricardo

Galvão, is an open critic of the far-right president's environmental policies, but can't be fired from a term that runs through 2020.

Environment Minister Ricardo Salles also called INPE's

figures sensationalist and inaccurate, but did not offer another estimate.

Salles said the current figures are often late to detect deforested areas, which could produce a mistaken impression of a spike like the one detected in June.

"Our concern is not to work to come up with a figure. It is to say that the figure that was presented is not correct," the minister said.

Salles has clashed with environmentalists since he took office in January and often sides with agribusiness leaders in their criticism of Brazil's environmental governance.

INPE said in response that it has used the same methodology to measure deforestation since 2004.

"Our work has always been

driven by the principals of excellence, transparency and scientific honesty," it said in a statement.

Observatório do Clima, a network of 43 environmental nonprofit groups in Brazil, called Bolsonaro's criticism of INPE's deforestation figures "an intellectual fraud."

"If minister Salles fought crime with half of the energy he spends fighting science and facts, the deforestation crisis would not have taken the proportion it has," the coalition said in a statement.

Greenpeace Brasil's coordinator, Márcio Astrini, blamed Brazil's president's pro-agribusiness policies for the rise in deforestation.

"Deforestation figures are bad in themselves. Lying will only increase the harm to the country," Astrini said. □

LOCAL



Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort and Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort: Divi Resorts Hires Ferry Zievinger For General Manager Position

ORANJESTAD — Divi Resorts is welcoming another fresh face to its management team on Aruba. Aruba native Ferry Zievinger will take over as General Manager of Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort and Divi Dutch Village Beach Resort, effective September 1, 2019.

"I'm looking forward to aligning my 35 years of experience with the company's vision and pushing this vision to its boundaries," said Zievinger. "I want to make sure that when someone plans a trip to Aruba, our resorts are always considered first, and that we excel as a hospitality company that's trusted to create flawless vacation experiences." The big move comes just weeks after the company announced that Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort's Pearl Lake will be promoted to General Manager, taking over the position formerly held by Gerrit Griffith who is retiring after 43

years with Divi Resorts. Zievinger's previous experience includes Director of Food & Beverage at Marriott in Curaçao, General Manager, Hotel Manager and Food & Beverage Director for Sandals Resorts throughout the Caribbean and Regional General Manager for the Sandals Corporate Team. "We're excited to welcome Mr. Zievinger to the Divi family," said Marco Galaverna, Divi Resorts President & COO. "As a local with an extensive background in the hospitality business, we feel he is the perfect fit for the job and will help propel our Aruba resorts to the next level."

About Divi Resorts Divi Resorts is the vacation expert of the Caribbean, with a collection of seven premium resorts spanning the five stunning Caribbean islands of Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, St. Croix, and St. Maarten. For more information on Divi Resorts, call 1-800-367-3484 or visit www.diviresorts.com. □



The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor one of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. The Distinguished Visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively.

The honoree was Chris Kasanowsky from USA, who has been visiting the island 12 years consecutively!

This lovely gentleman stated that he loves the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, its culture and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Divi Aruba All Inclusive Resort presented the certificate to the honoree, and also handed over some presents and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination and as his home away from home. □



Lui bee farm Aruba



ORANJESTAD — Honey bees, wild and domestic, perform about 80 percent of all pollination worldwide. A single bee colony can pollinate 300 million flowers each day. Grains are primarily pollinated by the wind, but fruits, nuts and vegetables are pollinated by bees. Seventy out of the top 100 human food crops — which supply about 90 percent of the world's nutrition — are pollinated by bees.

Seeing the importance of saving the bees Aruba is not staying behind. We have many people interested in saving and protecting these bees. Many are practicing Apiculture which consists of saving and protecting the bees with the sole purpose to produce honey locally. One of these persons is the very well-known on the island Mr. Luis Winterdaal, founder of Lui Bee Farm Aruba.

Luis Winterdaal was born and



raised in Aruba on October 10th 1954 in the city of Savaneta. A person with great love for the nature and all animals. Luis started working with bees when he was only 15 years old. At that time there was no special equipment to use when working with bees such as face masks and smokers. Luis used to make his own face protection equipment from wired screens sewed to a t-shirt. He also cut out the legs of his jeans to use them to protect his arms and as smoker he used cookie cans.

11 Years ago Luis met 3 young people who love bees and saw the importance that these bees have for the humanity: Giles, Jourdan and Suyen. With much passion and all the patience in the world Luis taught these 3 youngsters everything they needed to know about bees. From there started the idea of the farm. To save and protect these bees. They all try to demonstrate and teach the people of Aruba the importance these bees have. Their vision is to save as much bees as possible from being killed. For more than 45 years Luis has been helping our people of Aruba to solve any type of bee problems at their homes. Luis together with Giles, Jourdan and Suyen have been all over the island bringing their passion and knowledge in order to save these bees.

Organic honey:

At Lui Bee farm Aruba they have special bee boxes which are filled



with bees that were rescued from different houses and locations all around the island. Not always when rescuing bees you will find honey. Sometimes you will find the wax with only baby bees and if you are lucky you will find wax filled with honey.

The honey from the boxes at their location are not being emptied every time why? Because of the lack of rain on the island, most of the time it's very dry and this can be very stressful for the bees. Why the stress? Because they have to make new wax and also in such dry period they use honey to feed themselves to survive.

Honey that they produce and sell at their farm does not contain any chemicals. Their honey goes directly from the wax to the bottles. The whole process takes place at their own facility. They encounter all types of color of honey on the island from light to black honey. Since they depend very much on the water/rain for these bees to survive the production of see is not consistent. Lui Bee Farm wishes to someday be able to produce enough honey to distribute to the whole island. Honey is very beneficial for your overall health and is very important for the human being. Honey products are daily used for as medicine and in many beauty products.

Most of the time bees rescued

from houses are in swarm or have been there for years. Common places to find bees are: under the roof, on the roof, ceiling, in trees, in tires, on the walls, bird cages, under containers even in septic tanks anywhere you can think of is possible. They have even been called several times at hotels to remove hives from a bedroom or from the rooftop.

At Lui Bee Farm they know how important these bees are for our environment therefore when assisting at removing these hives they will stay there until they find the 'queen'. Who naturally is the most important for the production of the honey. Whenever they find her their job is done.

According to Luis bees in Aruba are not aggressive. If you leave them alone and don't disturb them they won't attack you. Therefore Lui Bee Farm kindly requests you to help the bees by putting water around the house. Especially during dry seasons. These bees need as much flowers and water as possible in order to survive. Please do not kill them!! To Lui Bee Farm a world without bees is like a dessert without food!!

For more information call them at 593-6694, email luibeefarmaruba@gmail.com or check their Facebook page Lui bee farm aruba or follow them on Instagram @luibeefarmaruba. □



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The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island

ORANJESTAD — Recently, Darline de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor a Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

The honored were **James & Barbara Nemecek**, residents of Sellersville Pennsylvania.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. De Cuba thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years together with the members of Renaissance Ocean Suites Mr. David Gomez.



Top reason for returning provided by the honorees were:

The warm inviting sun
The gracious treatment from everyone

The absolute feeling of safety everywhere/anytime
Clear Caribbean Water

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Evaluation of Caribbean airlift dilemmas and possible solutions requested

By Cdr. Bud Slabbaert
ST. MAARTEN — The Chairman of the SER (Social Economic Council) of St. Maarten, ir. Damien Richardson is taking the private initiative to request that CESALC (The Economic and Social Councils Network for Latin America and the Caribbean) evaluates the nature of airlift in the Caribbean and propose relevant scenarios, policies, and regulations that can help with the fluidity of movement of people regionally and internationally.

A question of note and an area of great concern and opportunity that can and will help the Caribbean region and its affiliated partner countries is to gain an understanding and formulate a path forward to assist in helping the logistical fluidity via aviation for the people of the Caribbean.

“Over a too long period of time, there have been discussions and summits on the various airlift dilemmas,” according to Mr. Richardson, “However, so far, we have not seen any tangible positive changes. CESALC council is a non-political organization of expert professionals. Their views and suggestions may support finding solutions.”

The questions that may be evaluated and used to help facilitate a Caribbean Regional Airlift Strategy are:

1. How can taxes and fees be eliminated from persons in the Caribbean and from those outside of the Caribbean who purchase tickets to come into and traveling around the Caribbean?
2. What are ways that Airlines and Airports can find to mitigate their

various services and operational charges?

CESALC (The Economic and Social Councils Network for Latin America and the Caribbean) is a network of Economic Councils and Social networks of Latin America and the Caribbean, serving as a forum for interaction, cooperation and collective construction. Its objectives are

- Understanding the regional specificities and convergences and the strategic interest of shared approach and action and considering the relevance of the dialogue between social actors and governments for inclusive and sustainable development.
- Produce debates on national and international issues and their impacts on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, involving the rep-



representatives of the civil society that make up the Network. Make it possible for the results of these debates to arrive as recommendations and proposals to governments and society.

A Summary of conclusions or preliminary conclusions may be presented at the 2020 Caribbean Aviation Meetup, St. Maarten, June 16-18, 2020.

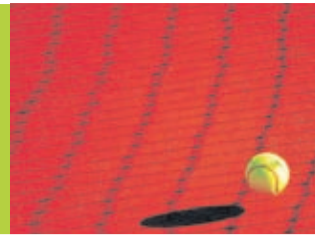
“We would welcome a presentation by an independent international council such as CESALC at the

next Caribbean Aviation Meetup,” says conference Chairman Cdr. Bud Slabbaert.

“It is high time that solutions are found and then actually be implemented. Conference presentation slots will be made available for that purpose, because the socio-economic impact of airlift in the region is to be taken very serious.”

The request by ir. Damien Richardson will be made during the next CESALC meeting in Guatemala, September 4th and 5th. □

SPORTS



In this July 7, 2019, file photo, U.S. players hold the trophy as they celebrate their victory in the Women's World Cup soccer final in Decines, outside Lyon, France.

Associated Press

U.S. in flux: Ellis leaves, GM coming soon and Olympics loom

By ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

Fresh off of a repeat performance as World Cup champions, the U.S. women's national team finds itself in flux.

On Tuesday, Jill Ellis announced she was stepping down after more than five years as the team's head coach. Under Ellis, the United States won eight total tournaments, including two World Cups, and lost just seven games.

Meanwhile, U.S. Soccer is in the process of naming the team's new general manager, who will report to President Carlos Cordeiro and chief executive officer Dan Flynn. The GM, expected to be appointed soon, will lead the search for a new coach.

Ellis, the national team's third female coach, hopes it will be another woman.

"I think there are a lot of qualified females. You also hope by doing it people have trust a female can do this," she said. "People have seen it and people potentially want to aspire to coach, not just soccer but whatever sport."

Continued on Page 19

CATCHING FAME



Broncos top Falcons in Hall of Fame game

Denver Broncos wide receiver Juwan Winfree celebrates after catching a touchdown pass during the second half of the team's Pro Football Hall of Fame NFL preseason game against the Atlanta Falcons, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, in Canton, Ohio.

Associated Press
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An takes 1-stroke lead at Wyndham; Svensson shoots 61

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)

— Byeong Hun An shot a 5-under 65 on Friday in the Wyndham Championship to take a one-stroke lead into the weekend

An was at 13-under 127 halfway through the PGA Tour's final event before the FedEx Cup playoffs.

Brice Garnett was a stroke back after a 64, and six players — including 2011 Wyndham winner Webb Simpson and first-round co-leader Sungjae Im — were at 9 under.

Adam Svensson also was in that group after shooting the best round of the day — a 61 — and threatening to become the first player on tour this year to break 60.

An, who shared the first-round lead with Im at 8 under, made his move up the leaderboard with three straight birdies late in his round.

Finishing on the back nine, the 27-year-old South Korean who's winless on tour had birdies on Nos. 3-5 and closed his second consecutive bogey-free round with four straight pars.

"I came close last couple years and, you know, maybe this week might do it," An said about that long-awaited first victory. "But still have two more days and there are a lot of play-



Byeong Hun An follows a shot on the ninth hole during the second round of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, N.C., Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

ers behind me. ... Just do what I've been doing the last couple days and just hit a lot of fairways and greens and make some putts. If someone plays better than me, then he deserves to win it, but as long as I keep these bogey-free rounds going."

For a while, the story of the day was whether Svensson would become the 11th player in PGA Tour history to break 60 — and the first since Brandt Snedeker opened this tournament last year by shooting a 59

on his way to a victory. Svensson birdied seven holes on the front nine and added two more on Nos. 12-13 to move to 9 under for the day.

"I was kind of like, all right, I'm 9 under par (after No. 13) and there's still four or five holes and a par 5," Svensson said. "I was actually pretty calm. I thought I would be a little more nervous than I was."

His best chance to go even lower came on No. 15 but he missed a 7-foot birdie putt.

Still, the 25-year-old Canadian who is winless on tour, had his second 61 this year. He also had one in the first round of the Sony Open in Hawaii. He started at No. 171 on the FedEx Cup points list but put himself in position to crack the top 125 and earn a spot in the field at the playoff opener, The Northern Trust, next week in New Jersey. That chase for playoff berths is a key subplot every year at Sedgefield, home of the bubble players' last chance to make the post-

season field and earn their tour cards for 2020, if they don't already have them.

Everyone from No. 103 to No. 137 is here, and in the Wyndham's dozen years as the final pre-playoff event, an average of 2.7 players have played their way into the postseason.

Garnett, who at No. 121 is the very definition of a bubble player, put himself in good shape by opening the tournament with consecutive 64s, closing the second one with birdies on three of his final five holes.

The pack of seven players two strokes back included two others on the playoff bubble: Patton Kizzire, a two-time winner last year who is at No. 129 on the points list, shot a 64 that included consecutive eagles on Nos. 5 and 6. And Josh Teater, at No. 165, kept himself in contention with a 65 highlighted by five birdies — and a bogey — in a seven-hole stretch.

The other storyline is the top players' pursuit of spots in the top 10 and the Wyndham Rewards bonus money that accompanies those finishes. Nine players started this tournament with a shot at some of that cash, and at the midpoint, two of them — Simpson and Paul Casey — are in position to claim it. □

Buhai stretches lead to 3 shots at Women's British Open

MILTON KEYNES, England (AP)

— Ashleigh Buhai stretched her surprise lead at the Women's British Open to three shots, shooting a bogey-free 5-under 67 in Friday's second round. Buhai, a 30-year-old South African who has never won on the LPGA Tour, birdied four of the final eight holes to post 12-under 132.

"I'm trying not to keep thinking it's a major. It's just another tournament," said Buhai, whose best previous British Open finish was a tie for 30th in 2017. "I just keep trying to do what I've done the last few weeks. I've kept the mistakes off the card the last two days."

Alone in second at 9 under was 20-year-old Hinako Shi-



South Korea's Jin Young Ko plays off the 7th tee on day two of the Women's British Open at Woburn Golf Club, Little Brickhill, England, Friday Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

buno, a rookie on the Japan LPGA Tour who is making her LPGA Tour and major championship debut.

"I just wanted to make the cut. That's all," Shibuno said. Shibuno, who shot 66 on Thursday, had a 69 on Fri-

day and wowed spectators at Woburn Golf Club with her fearless play. She led for much of the afternoon before Buhai overtook her. Shibuno has two victories in Japan this year and is ranked 46th in the world. American Lizette Salas was third at 8 under. She birdied the first four holes en route to a bogey-free 67.

"Awesome day," Salas said. Bronte Law, the top-ranked English player at No. 19, also shot 67 and was four shots back alongside Celine Boutier, second-ranked Sung Hyun Park, Caroline Masson and local favorite Charley Hull, who is playing on her home course. Boutier had the day's lowest round at 66.

Danielle Kang had a disappointing 72 and was six shots back.

"I don't know, nothing really felt like yesterday," Kang said. "I guess today was one of those off-days and yesterday was the day that everything comes together. But I know what I'm capable of. Even if I'm playing bad, I know I can give myself opportunities."

Defending champion Georgia Hall was also 6 under after a 69, along with Ariya Jutanugarn (70), Carlota Ciganda (69) and top-ranked Jin Young Ko, who was frustrated after a 70. Ko is seeking her third major title of the year after winning last week's Evian Championship in France. □



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ON MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYSJuly 22, 24, 29 and 31, 2019
starting at 9:00 PM**Continued from Page 17**

You really hope that is part of the legacy you leave behind."

Once named, the new coach will be taxed quickly with preparing the team for Olympic qualifying and next summer's Tokyo Games. Ellis said she'd be there for her successor: "I want whoever comes next to know that there will be that support."

Hanging over all of the immediate uncertainty is the legal dispute between the women's team and U.S. soccer. The players filed a federal lawsuit last March accusing the federation of gender discrimination in matters including pay.

The lawsuit capped a long-simmering dispute between the federation and the players, who claim they deserve to make as much as their counterparts on the men's national team.

The two sides have agreed to mediation now that the World Cup is over.

Ellis steps away after winning back-to-back titles in soccer's premier global

tournament. Her contract was set to expire following the World Cup, and she said Tuesday she started to think months ago about leaving following the event in France.

She'll stay with the team through its five-game victory tour, which starts Saturday against Ireland at the Rose Bowl. After that, she'll serve as an ambassador for U.S. Soccer for at least a year.

Ellis said she wants to spend more time with her family.

"The timing of this is good. Not only on a personal level but also for the program in terms of preparing to start a new cycle," she said. "It's obviously been a fantastic run and fantastic ride. I'm going to enjoy these last few games."

The top-ranked U.S. team has been dominant throughout Ellis' tenure. The team went undefeated in the 2015 World Cup in Canada en route to a 5-2 victory over Japan in the title match. The United States gave up just three goals over the course of the tour-

namment.

Earlier this month, the U.S. defeated the Netherlands 2-0 in Lyon, France, to claim its second straight championship — pulling off challenging knockout victories over No. 4 France and No. 3 England. The Americans never trailed at the tournament and set records with 26 goals and a 12-game World Cup winning streak dating to 2015. Ellis became the first coach to lead a team to two Women's World Cup titles.

But there were also moments of disappointment. The defending champions were knocked out in the quarterfinals in the 2016 Brazil Olympics by Sweden, the team's earliest departure ever in the tournament. Afterward, there was some grumbling behind the scenes as Ellis shifted players and experimented with tactics.

Overall, Ellis led the team in 127 matches with 102 wins. She coached the team for more games than any of her seven predecessors.

Ellis became head coach



In this July 7, 2019 file photo United States' team celebrates with the trophy after winning the Women's World Cup final soccer match between US and The Netherlands at the Stade de Lyon in Decines, outside Lyon, France.

Associated Press

in 2014, promoted after taking over on an interim basis following the dismissal of Tom Sermanni. She also served as interim coach after Pia Sundhage resigned in 2012.

She was an assistant to both and was on the staff of the gold medal-winning teams at the Beijing and London Olympics. She also served as head coach at UCLA for 12 seasons.

"This is not a job that some-

one sits in for 10 years," Ellis said. "Change is good. A position like this should not be forever."

On the same day that Ellis announced her resignation, Sundhage was introduced as the new head coach of the Brazilian women's team. Asked about some of the changes she plans to implement, Sundhage said Brazil needs "an American mentality" and "Swedish organization" to win more. □

Fangio coaches after kidney stone issue, Denver wins

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — For a while Thursday, Vic Fangio didn't know if his long-awaited debut as a head coach would happen in the Hall of Fame game.

Fangio finished team meetings, then headed to a hospital because of a kidney stone. Though determined to lead his new team, the Denver Broncos, against Atlanta, "I didn't know if I would make it."

He did, and he was made a winner thanks to a late rally.

Fangio, an NFL assistant coach for nearly two decades, saw a late interception set up rookie Juwan Winfree's 15-yard touch-down catch, and his team edged the Falcons 14-10 to open the NFL's preseason.

Yes, it was an exhibition game — the real first test comes Sept. 9 at Oakland. Still, Fangio was getting his chance to run a team. So this truly was a debut.

"Winning has cured more things than penicillin," joked Fangio, who still had not passed the stone when he met with the media after the game. "Nobody is doing backflips and cartwheels like in the regular season."

Trey Johnson's interception of Matt Schaub's pass after the Atlanta backup quarterback was pressured set up Denver at the Falcons 38 with 5:21 remaining. A 14-yard pass interference call on fourth down against Rashard Causey kept Denver in it, but the Broncos were hurt by a holding pen-

alty against rookie Ryan Crozier.

Unfazed, rookie Brett Rypien hurled a pass into the right corner of the end zone, where it was deflected and Winfree latched onto it with 1:26 remaining. "Trey made a nice play at the end, and Winfree made an acrobatic catch," Fangio said. "It's always good to be here for this game. It's always great to be around great ex-players and owners."

Fangio also became the first coach to utilize the new rule allowing challenges of pass interference calls. Late in the second quarter, Linden Stephens was called for a 43-yard defensive penalty. Officials upheld the call.

"I made a statement I'd be the first to throw the flag on defensive pass interference," said Fangio, one of the premier defensive coordinators the league has seen.

Both teams had eight-play first-half drives for touchdowns. Denver's was finished by Khalifani Muhammad's 3-yard run up the middle. Atlanta tied it with a precise two-minute drill guided by first-year quarterback Kurt Benkert, who is seeking a backup job to Matt Ryan. Benkert took the Falcons 61 yards in 1:17, hitting running back Brian Hill with a 3-yard touch-down pass.

Benkert conducted another impressive series in the third period, going 56 yards in 12 plays to Giorgio Tavecchio's 27-yard field goal for a 10-7 lead.



Denver Broncos coach Vic Fangio watches during the second half of the team's Pro Football Hall of Fame NFL preseason game against the Atlanta Falcons, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, in Canton, Ohio.

Associated Press

Benkert headed to the locker room early in the fourth quarter with a toe injury. He went 19 of 34 for 185 yards.

Otherwise, it pretty much

was a slopfest marred by dropped passes, penalties and missed assignments. Then again, how much can be expected in such an early preseason game?

CLASS OF 2019

The class of 2019 was introduced before the game and walked across the 50-yard line flanked by players from each team. The loudest cheers went to former Broncos cornerback Champ Bailey, which was predictable considering all the orange-clad folks in the stands. Former Chiefs and Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez gestured and joshed with the Atlanta players as he strode through. Ed Reed, Ty Law, Kevin Mawae, Gil Brandt, Johnny Robinson and the family of late Broncos owner Pat Bowlen also received loud ovations from the crowd of 20,802.

LOCK IT UP

Drew Lock, Denver's second-round draft pick and perhaps its quarterback of the future — Joe Flacco, acquired from Baltimore, if the starter but sat Thursday night — got plenty of action. He rarely impressed and finished 7 of 11 for 34 yards.

INJURIES

Falcons: Atlanta, which was ravaged by injuries last season, saw fourth-year DT Ra'Shede Hageman go down in the first quarter with a groin problem. Hageman has not played an NFL game since 2016. ... WR Marcus Green left in the third period with a groin injury.

Broncos: Denver third-year LB Joe Jones hurt an arm in the second quarter and did not return. Asked for further updates on injuries, Fangio smiled and concluded: "I am more concerned about my injury update." □

Pro Football Hall of Fame to expand inductees class for 2020

By **BARRY WILNER**

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — The Pro Football Hall of Fame will expand the number of potential inductees to 20 in 2020 as part of the NFL's celebration of its 100th season.

Calling it a centennial class, hall president David Baker said Friday five modern-day players, 10 seniors, three contributors and two coaches could be elected

next year. The modern-day group would be decided by the 48 selection committee voters, as always, on the day before the Super Bowl in February.

The other 15 would be voted on as one bloc, not individually, by the selection committee. They would be chosen by a 25-member committee that will include Hall of Famers, historians and current voters.

Part of the 2020 class would be inducted in early August. The others would be enshrined about Sept. 17, 2020, the date that marks 100 years from the original NFL game.

Baker did not identify the specific members of the 25-person committee, nor the exact voting procedures. Through the years, 80% positive votes have been required for election.

He joked that with so many potential inductees next year — the current maximum is eight — there will be "a lot of doors to knock on" with the good news.

"This is good for football, for the Pro Football Hall of Fame and it is great for the NFL," he said. "We get a way to celebrate 100 years and look forward to the next 100 years."

Baker also expressed strong

confidence that the voters will get things right and no one who doesn't have the proper credentials will wind up making the hall.

"It's an opportunity to catch up perhaps on some injustices," he said, mentioning there are seven members of NFL all-decade teams not in the Hall of Fame. "This is an opportunity that comes around every other lifetime." □



Dallas Cowboys Jerry Jones, left, talks with actor Jamie Foxx, right, at the NFL football team's training camp in Oxnard, Calif., Monday, July 29, 2019.

Associated Press

Cowboys' Jerry Jones seems worry-free over Elliott holdout

By SCHUYLER DIXON

OXNARD, Calif. (AP) — Ezekiel Elliott's contract holdout doesn't have Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones worried about a resolution or a timeline.

At least that's the message Jones is offering about trying to get a deal done with his missing two-time NFL rushing champion.

"When have I ever not done one?" Jones said after practice at training camp Thursday night. "So I don't worry about that. You just keep plugging."

Elliott has missed five camp practices while seeking a new contract despite having two years remaining on his current one.

The fourth overall choice in the 2016 draft, Elliott is due to make \$3.9 million this season and \$9.1 million in the fifth year, which was a team option since the former Ohio State star was a first-round pick.

Two days after seven-year veteran and former Elliott backup Alfred Morris returned to the Cowboys, Jones suggested he was prepared for a long holdout with the 2016 All-Pro who led the league in rushing as a rookie that year.

"I don't see a point months into the season," Jones said. "While we're not there right

now, there are some lines there. And they do bite when you don't play. I don't have a time that I'm looking at that is a concern."

The Cowboys can fine Elliott \$40,000 per day, and Elliott risks losing a season that would count toward free agency if he doesn't report at least 30 days before the Sept. 8 season opener at home against the New York Giants.

Elliott isn't the only offensive star for the Cowboys with a big payday coming.

Quarterback Dak Prescott, a rookie sensation alongside Elliott when Dallas won the NFC East three years ago, is in the final year of his first deal. The 2016 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year has a base salary of just \$2 million after going 32-16 as the starter in his first three seasons.

Receiver Amari Cooper, who joined the Cowboys in a midseason trade last year and sparked a sluggish offense, is by far the highest-paid of the three at the moment. Cooper is at \$13.9 million in the fifth year of the rookie deal he signed as the fourth overall pick a year before Elliott.

"As far as doing something that would disrupt and shake the base of our plans for how to keep the talent

we've got here and how to do that, I'm not about to shake that loose over that concern," Jones said.

Elliott was seen in Frisco, Texas, where the Cowboys have their practice facility, on reporting day for players in California. He has since gone to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where he spent time two years ago during his six-game suspension over domestic violence allegations.

"I'm not even giving it a second thought as to his conditioning, which is part of his ability to step right in," Jones said when asked about Cabo. "That's not even an issue. I'm not concerned about him missing reps out here relative to getting his timing down."

Elliott had another off-field issue this past offseason — a run-in with a security guard at a music festival in Las Vegas. The NFL cleared him in that incident about three weeks before camp.

"A lot of the negative stuff you hear about him in the news and all that, that's not who he is," said running backs coach Gary Brown, who said he has talked to Elliott since the team arrived in California. "He's a really good guy, cares about his teammates and it's killing him not to be here." □



Andy Murray, right, talks with Jamie Murray, left, both of Britain, as they played a doubles match against Raven Klaasen, of South Africa, and Michael Venus, of New Zealand, in the Citi Open tennis tournament, Friday, Aug. 2, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

Andy Murray, brother Jamie ousted in Citi Open doubles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Andy Murray and brother Jamie were knocked out in the Citi Open doubles quarterfinals Friday, while 17-year-old Caty McNally reached the women's semifinals and then hoped to advance in doubles with fellow teenager Coco Gauff.

The Murray brothers were outlasted by the third-seeded team of Raven Klaasen and Michael Venus 6-7 (3), 7-6 (6), 10-7 earlier Friday.

Andy Murray, the former No. 1 ranked singles player, has been limited to doubles as he recovers from hip surgery. He hasn't said if he will attempt to play singles this year. He and Jamie had won a match tiebreaker for their first victory in Washington before falling in the same manner Friday.

McNally, playing in the main draw of a WTA tournament for the first time, beat No. 4 seed Hsieh Su-wei 6-4, 6-3. That left no seeded players remaining in the women's final four.

McNally, who was given a wild card into the tour-

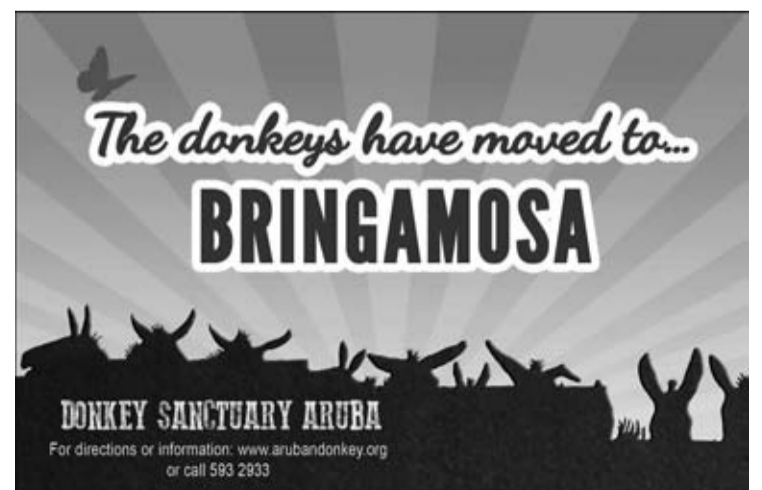
namment, will play Camila Giorgi or Zarina Diyas for a spot in the final.

She and Gauff, the 15-year-old who reached the fourth round at Wimbledon, were scheduled to play the pair of Anna Kalinskaya and Miyu Kato in the doubles semifinals.

In singles, top-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece swept past No. 10 seed Benoit Paire 7-5, 6-0.

Also, No. 3 Daniil Medvedev edged sixth-seeded Marin Cilic 6-4, 7-6 (7) to set up a semifinal meeting with Peter Gojowczyk, who continued his surprising run by upsetting No. 13 seed Kyle Edmund 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. The 122nd-ranked Gojowczyk, who lost in qualifying and only made it into the main draw when another player withdrew, has only one career title.

Jessica Pegula won an all-American women's quarterfinal matchup with Lauren Davis, 6-2, 7-6 (2), and Russian Anna Kalinskaya beat Kristina Mladenovic of France, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. □



Cards beat Cubs 8-0, take over 1st place in NL Central

By The Associated Press
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Jack Flaherty struck out nine in seven strong innings and Matt Wieters hit a three-run homer as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs 8-0 Thursday in a matchup of NL Central leaders.

The Cardinals won two games in the three-game set and claimed first in the division, a game ahead of Chicago. The Cubs have lost four of six overall and 11 of their last 16 on the road. Flaherty (5-6) allowed just one hit and walked two in recording his first win since May 14, a span of 79 days and 12 starts. The right-hander held the Cubs without a hit until newcomer Nicholas Castellanos singled to right with two out in the sixth.

Wieters capped off a four-run, sixth-inning outburst with a three-run homer off Derek Holland.

Jose Martinez, Kolten Wong and Yairo Muniz had RBI singles for the Cardinals.

Jon Lester (9-7) gave up five earned runs on nine hits over five-plus innings. He struck out six and did not walk a batter.

PHILLIES 10, GIANTS 2

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — J.T. Realmuto hit a three-run homer and fell a triple shy of the cycle, Cesar Hernan-



St. Louis Cardinals' Matt Wieters hits a three-run home run during the sixth inning of the team's baseball game against the Chicago Cubs on Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

dez and Roman Quinn also went deep, and Philadelphia beat San Francisco.

Jake Arrieta pitched two-hit ball into the fifth but was pulled after 71 pitches because of a bone spur in his right elbow. He allowed two runs — one earned — and four hits, striking out five in four-plus innings. Jose Alvarez (2-2) and three relievers tossed five scoreless innings.

Giants starter Dereck Rodriguez (4-6) gave up seven

runs — four earned — and eight hits in three innings. Brandon Belt and Mike Yastrzemski had RBI singles for the Giants, who climbed into the wild-card race with a 19-6 record in July.

MARLINS 5, TWINS 4, 12 INNINGS

MIAMI (AP) — Newly acquired Minnesota reliever Sam Dyson blew a three-run lead in the ninth inning, then Harold Ramirez hit a leadoff homer in the 12th to make Miami a winner.

Dyson, acquired from San Francisco on Wednesday, faced four batters and didn't retire any of them, allowing two walks and two hits before being pulled.

The Marlins tied it with three runs, and Ramirez homered in the 12th, connecting off Cody Stashak (0-1) to avert a three-game sweep. Ramirez also doubled home a run in the second. Max Kepler led off the game with his 30th homer and Byron Buxton drove in

two runs with his 30th double for the Twins.

Jeff Brigham (1-0) earned his first career victory with two perfect innings.

BRAVES 4, REDS 1, 6 INNINGS

ATLANTA (AP) — Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer, Adam Duvall went deep and Max Fried pitched six strong innings to lead Atlanta past Cincinnati in a game that was cut short by heavy rain.

Fried threw one pitch in the top of the seventh before a line of strong thunderstorms swept across SunTrust Park. Nearly two hours after play was halted, lightning continued to crackle across the sky and sheets of rain turned the warning track into a muddy mess. With no sign of the storm letting up, the game was finally called. Fried (12-4) breezed to this third straight win, surrendering just four hits.

Reds starter Anthony DeSclafani (6-6) trailed 3-0 before he got his first out.

DODGERS 8, PADRES 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rookie Will Smith hit his first career grand slam, and Clayton Kershaw passed Sandy Koufax on the Dodgers' career strikeouts list while throwing six strong innings in Los Angeles' win over San Diego. □

Suspended Reds manager wants to watch game without drama

By GEORGE HENRY

ATLANTA (AP) — Suspended Reds manager David Bell planned to watch Friday's game in privacy after his wayward experience the night before.

Bell, who is serving a six-game suspension for his role in a benches-clearing brawl this week, tried unsuccessfully to observe his team from the stands Thursday at SunTrust Park, only to be recognized by fans who wanted to chat and take pictures with him during the action.

"What happened first was I went to the outfield seats because I am allowed in the seats and I blend in," he said before Cincinnati faced the Atlanta Braves. "Nobody's ever known or



Cincinnati Reds manager David Bell (25) runs up to umpire Larry Vanover, center, to argue a called strike against Yasiel Puig during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, in Cincinnati.

Associated Press

cared who I (was) or that I do anything, but I don't know. With everything that's gone on the last few days, I

sat down and people started coming up to me right away. Then I went into the concourse and was going

to move seats. People were like, 'Hey, there's the manager!' I knew this wasn't going to work."

Bell left the ballpark and went to the Omni hotel behind center field. He watched the game for a while, but had to leave the hotel when the satellite TV service went out. He then moved from restaurant to restaurant in the Battery retail area adjacent to the ballpark before heavy storms hit the area and ended the game in the seventh inning.

Bell took an Uber back to the team hotel.

"It seems funny," he said, "but I really was struggling last night."

Bell said the rules of his suspension state that he's not

allowed near the dugout, clubhouse or press box during the game. He left the clubhouse Thursday 20 minutes before the first pitch.

"I just have to be in one of the seats if I'm in the stadium," he said.

Bench coach Freddie Benavides is running the team in his absence.

"It's really tough for me," Bell said. "We're in great hands. There's no concern there, but for me it's really tough." Bell had an offer to watch the game in a network radio studio just outside the ballpark.

"Tonight I've got the MLB app set up on my phone," he said. "I don't know why I didn't think of that. Now I can watch it anywhere tonight. I'm all set." □

Cole extends win streak to 9 games, Astros beat Indians 7-1

By The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Gerrit Cole pitched one-run ball over seven innings and extended his winning streak to a career-best nine games as Houston beat Cleveland, spoiling the home debut of Yasiel Puig and the return of Danny Salazar. Cole (13-5) gave up four hits, all in the first four innings, and struck out four for Houston.

Alex Bregman, Michael Brantley and Jordan Alvarez drove in two runs apiece, while George Springer hit his MLB-leading eighth leadoff home run and scored three times. Bregman went 3 for 3 with a solo homer.

Puig doubled off the wall in the fourth and went 1 for 3 with a stolen base in his first game since being acquired from Cincinnati. Franmil Reyes, who came over from San Diego in the same three-team trade, had a single in four at-bats. Salazar (0-1) allowed two runs in four innings in his first appearance in the majors since the 2017 AL Division Series. He struck out two and topped out at 88.3 MPH in 66 pitches in his comeback from surgery on his throwing shoulder last July.

RAYS 9, RED SOX 4

BOSTON (AP) — Rookie left-hander Brendan McK-



Houston Astros starting pitcher Gerrit Cole throws to a Cleveland Indians batter during the first inning of a baseball game in Cleveland, Thursday, Aug. 1, 2019.

Associated Press

ay struck out seven, Mike Zunino and Austin Meadows homered, and Tampa Bay completed a three-game sweep over Boston. The Rays have won four straight and hold the AL's final wild card by a half-game over Oakland. Boston fell 3 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay.

The Red Sox lost their fourth straight and fell 10 1/2 games behind the AL East-leading Yankees.

Tommy Pham had two RBI singles and Jesús Aguilar singled and scored twice in

his debut for the Rays. Eric Sogard also had two hits for the Rays.

McKay (2-1) got his second win in the majors, holding Boston to three runs and seven hits in 5 1/3 innings. Xander Bogaerts went 4 for 4 with two homers, and Mookie Betts also homered for the Red Sox.

METS 4, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP) — Zack Wheeler tossed seven innings of four-hit ball, Robinson Canó drove in two runs with a homer and double and New York beat Chi-

cago for its seventh straight win.

Wilson Ramos also drove in a run as the Mets completed a three-game sweep of the White Sox and won their 13th of 17 overall.

Chicago has dropped eight of nine and is 4-16 since the All-Star break.

Wheeler (8-6) struck out seven and walked none in his second start after a 2½-week stint on injured list with shoulder fatigue. Luis Avilán and Jeurys Familia completed the four-hitter.

Rookie Dylan Cease (1-4)

allowed four runs, three earned, in seven innings in his fifth and longest start since joining Chicago's rotation.

ATHLETICS 5, BREWERS 3

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Matt Chapman hit a two-run home run off struggling closer Josh Hader (1-5) in the eighth and Oakland beat Milwaukee.

Chad Pinder also went deep and Mark Canha added three hits to help the A's win their fourth in five games.

Christian Yelich doubled to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 19 games for Milwaukee. Mike Moustakas added two hits, and Trent Grisham had a sacrifice fly in his major league debut with the Brewers.

Blake Treinen (6-3) retired three batters to win, and Liam Hendriks pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

BLUE JAYS 11, ORIOLES 2

BALTIMORE (AP) — Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit two of Toronto's five home runs to back a solid performance by fellow rookie Trent Thornton in a win over Baltimore. Randal Grichuk, Danny Jansen and Billy McKinney also homered for the Blue Jays, who tied a season high with their fourth straight win. Guerrero's homers included an impressive 450-foot shot off Dylan Tate in the eighth inning. □

First female referee to officiate European Super Cup

NYON, Switzerland (AP) — Stéphanie Frappart has been appointed as the referee for the European Super Cup between Liverpool and Chelsea, making her the first woman to officiate a major UEFA men's showpiece event.

UEFA announced Frappart's appointment on Friday, adding that the Frenchwoman will lead a team of predominantly female officials, with Manuela Nicolosi of France and Michelle O'Neal from the Republic of Ireland serving as assistant referees.

The 35-year-old Frappart was also in charge at the Women's World Cup Final between the United States and the Netherlands.

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin says: "I have said on many occasions that the potential for women's football has no limits."

It is not the first time a female has refereed a men's UEFA competition match. Switzerland's Nicole Petignat officiated three UEFA Cup qualifying-round matches between 2004 and 2009.

The Super Cup is the tra-

ditional curtain raiser to the season, between the winners of the Champions League and Europa League. This year it will take place at the Besiktas Park in Istanbul on Aug. 14. Frappart also became the first female referee to officiate a French league match in April. She has been promoted to the pool of French top-flight referees on a permanent basis for the upcoming season.

Ceferin adds: "I hope the skill and devotion that Stéphanie has shown



In this Saturday, June 29, 2019 file photo, Referee Stéphanie Frappart of France during the of the Women's World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between Germany and Sweden at Roazhon Park in Rennes, France.

Associated Press

throughout her career to reach this level will provide inspiration to millions of girls and women around

Europe and show them there should be no barriers in order to reach one's dream." □



This Dec. 11, 2018 file photo shows an Amazon package containing a GPS tracker on the porch of a Jersey City, N.J. residence after its delivery.

Associated Press

Stolen goods on Amazon? Shoppers won't care, experts say

NEW YORK (AP) — News of an alleged Amazon theft ring involving contract delivery drivers is unlikely to make a dent in the online shopping giant's massive business. But it may make people more wary of letting deliveries into their house when they aren't there — a nascent project from both Amazon and Walmart.

WHAT HAPPENED WITH AMAZON?

The theft ring, according to an FBI search warrant affidavit, involved Amazon contract drivers stealing items that were being shipped to customers or returns. Then they resold them to pawn shops, which shipped the items to Amazon warehouses and resold them on Amazon's sites using the sellers "Bestforyouall" or "Freeshipforyou." No charges have been filed yet.

WILL PEOPLE STOP SHOPPING AT AMAZON?

Regular customers probably won't stop buying from Amazon. People still use Amazon even after having their packages stolen by "porch pirates," even though that is a big problem.

"It's almost an inevitability that people will use the site to dispose of ill-gotten gains," said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail. "Amazon is

the largest marketplace; it's going to have the biggest problem."

But the thefts could alter shoppers' behavior in other ways. Negative press could tank retailer services that might seem intrusive, such as ones that deliver packages directly into your house, said Jon Reily, a former Amazon executive now at the digital consultancy firm Publicis Sapient. Those in-home delivery services have already raised touchy questions about privacy. Reily said he suspects that they haven't gained much traction, although a separate Amazon service that makes deliveries to people's cars seems more popular. "It'll be interesting to see how this affects everyone," he said. "Consumer confidence is a weird animal."

The news could also boost interest in options that let people pick up their packages at stores rather than having them delivered, a service that has become more seamless in the last few years, Saunders said.

But overall, it's not likely that shoppers will change their behavior. "Will this affect Amazon? I doubt it. This will be a blip in the news that will quickly be forgotten," said Forrester analyst Sucharita Kodali. "This is what happens on market-

places."

WHAT IS AMAZON DOING?

Amazon said in a statement that it does not tolerate fraud and it prohibits inauthentic or stolen goods from being offered in its store. It says it takes action when sellers do not comply. The company and other online marketplaces have long had problems with fake goods such as imitation Birkenstock shoes or Apple accessories. Amazon said it spent more than \$400 million in 2018 fighting counterfeit products, fraud and other forms of abuse. Kodali said Amazon could have more stringent seller and merchandise standards, but that's unlikely because the company makes money from its successful third-party sellers — other companies that sell products through Amazon's site.

Still, the company could face legal issues if it knowingly allowed sales of stolen goods on its site, Saunders said.

If a third-party seller has its packages stolen on the way to a shopper, it's not clear who has to pay to reimburse the customer. Amazon did not answer the question, but on its website says that customers can request a refund from Amazon if a third-party seller has not refunded them. □



This Friday, June 16, 2017, file photo shows the Google logo at a gadgets show in Paris.

Associated Press

Google halts Assistant speech data transcription in EU

BERLIN (AP) — Google has given reassurances that it won't make transcripts of speech data picked up by its Google Assistant system in the European Union for at least the next three months, a German data-protection authority said Thursday.

The office of Johannes Caspar, who as Hamburg's commissioner for data protection acts as Germany's lead regulator of Google on privacy issues, said his authority received the assurance after opening proceedings against Google. Google acknowledged last month its contractors are able to listen to recordings of what people tell Google Assistant after some Dutch-language recordings were leaked. It says contractors listen to recordings to better understand language patterns and accents.

Caspar's office said in a statement that Google told the Hamburg authority that transcripts of speech recordings are already suspended and won't take place for at least three months from Thursday. The company confirmed the move and said that "shortly after we learned about the leaking of confidential Dutch audio data, we paused language reviews of the Assistant to investigate."

Google's move is voluntary as the authority is still considering the matter and Caspar hasn't yet ordered action. The company said it is "assessing how we con-

duct audio reviews and help our users understand how data is used."

"We don't associate audio clips with user accounts during the review process, and only perform reviews for around 0.2% of all clips," it added.

Caspar said there are "currently significant doubts" as to whether the use of Google Assistant complies with EU data-protection law. His office said that, while authorities in Ireland — where Google's European operation is headquartered — take the lead on such matters, EU data protection law allows authorities in other member countries to take action for a maximum of three months if there is an "urgent need to act" to protect people's rights and freedoms.

He urged other authorities to consider action against artificial intelligence systems from rivals such as Apple and Amazon. □



US stocks fall again, joining worldwide sell-off, on tariffs

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Financial markets around the world buckled Friday, and the S&P 500 was on track to close out its worst week of the year following President Donald Trump's latest escalation in his trade war with China.

China struck back and said Friday it will take "necessary countermeasures" if Trump follows through on tweets he sent Thursday that shocked markets and promised 10% tariffs on all the Chinese imports that haven't already been hit with tariffs of 25%.

The re-escalation in tensions between the world's largest economies is raising worries about a global recession. So investors are playing defense by selling stocks and buying gold. They're also raising their expectations that the Federal Reserve will be forced to cut interest rates several times to cushion the trade war's blow.

The S&P 500 was down 1%, as of noon Eastern time, which would be its fifth straight loss. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 214 points, or 0.8%, to 26,368, and the Nasdaq was down 1.5%.

The government released its monthly jobs report on Friday, and it's usually a major, market-moving event. But it hewed close to economists' expectations, showing a slowdown in hir-



In this July 19, 2019, file photo specialist Michael Pistillo, right, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Associated Press

ing last month, and analysts said it was overshadowed by worries about trade and what the Fed could do about it.

The Fed has already cut interest rates once, doing so on Wednesday for the first time in more than a decade. Chairman Jerome Powell cited "trade policy uncertainty" as a major reason for it in a press conference following the announcement. But he stopped short of promising a long cycle of rate cuts, which left investors disappointed and Trump tweeting that "as usual, Powell let us down."

The next day came Trump's tweet on tariffs, and investors now say there's a 98%

probability that the Fed will cut rates again at its next meeting in September. That's up from a roughly 50% probability Wednesday afternoon.

Traders see low rates as steroids for stocks and other risky investments because they make bonds less attractive in comparison. By making borrowing cheaper, low rates can also help goose the economy.

But the Fed has less ammunition than in the past to cut rates because they're already low following years of nearly zero interest rates to get the economy going. The federal funds rate sits at a range of 2% to 2.25%, compared with the 5.25% perch it sat at before the

Great Recession.

Rate cuts alone may not be able to fully counteract the possible negative repercussions of the trade war.

Trade uncertainty has been weighing on business investment spending, and this latest escalation only adds to it. "It will be important to monitor business sentiment surveys to see whether there is a significant impact on the demand for workers — if businesses stop hiring, this would greatly increase the risk of a recession," UBS Global Wealth Management's Chief Investment Officer Mark Haefele said in a report. The latest round of announced tariffs, which would go into effect Sept.

1, more directly affect U.S. consumers shopping at Wal-Mart or Target. If Trump ramps them up to 25% and keeps them there for four to six months, Morgan Stanley economists say they would expect a recession within nine months.

The concerns about the trade war and Fed have also blotted out what's been a better-than-expected earnings reporting season. Roughly three quarters of S&P 500 companies have updated investors on how much profit they made from April through June, and earnings for S&P 500 companies are on pace for a drop of 1% from a year ago. While weak, that's still better than the nearly 3% drop that analysts were earlier forecasting, according to FactSet.

Newell Brands surged 15.7% for the biggest gain in the S&P 500 after the company behind the Calphalon, Rubbermaid and Sharpie brands reported better-than-expected profits for the latest quarter.

NetApp was the worst performer in the S&P 500 after the technology company said that it will likely report weaker results for the latest quarter than it had earlier anticipated. Its shares plunged 21.9%.

Treasury yields were mixed, and the 10-year yield fell to 1.87% from 1.89% late Thursday. It's close to its lowest point since Trump's election in 2016. □

Toyota sees quarterly profit, sales rise, lowers forecast

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota reported a nearly 4% increase in fiscal first quarter profit on improved sales, but Japan's top automaker slightly lowered its full year forecasts because of unfavorable currency exchange rates.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s said Friday its April-June profit totaled 682.9 billion yen (\$6.4 billion), up from 657.3 billion yen the same period last year. Quarterly sales

rose 3.8% to 7.65 trillion yen (\$71 billion).

Consolidated vehicle sales for the period totaled 2.3 million, an increase of more than 67,000 vehicles from the previous year.

By region, vehicle sales rose in Japan, the rest of Asia and Europe but fell in North America, according to the maker of the Prius hybrid, Corolla subcompact and Lexus luxury brand.

Toyota lowered its profit forecast for the fiscal year through March 2020 to

2.15 trillion yen (\$20 billion), down from its earlier forecast for 2.25 trillion yen (\$21 billion) profit.

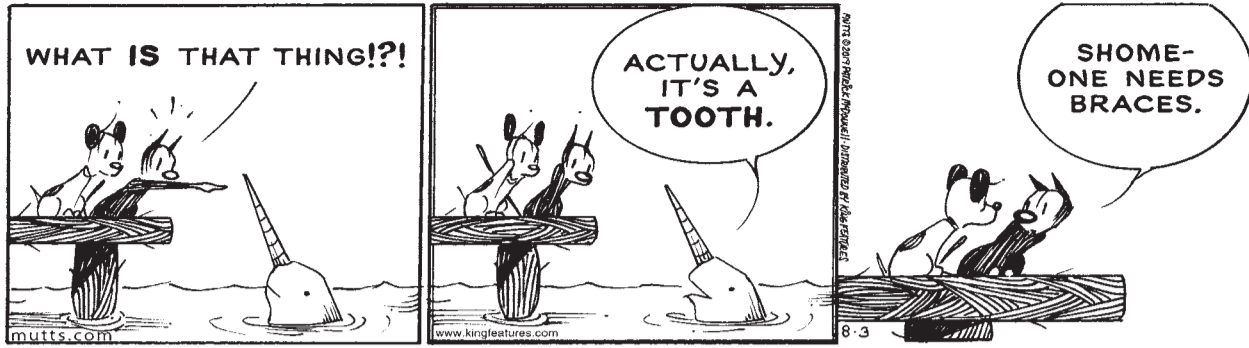
The new forecast is still an improvement over the 1.88 trillion yen (\$18 billion) earned for the fiscal year ended in March. The lowered profit came from the negative impact of changes in foreign exchange rate assumptions, said Operating Officer Kenta Kon. The company will counter that with cost cuts to boost profitability, he said. □



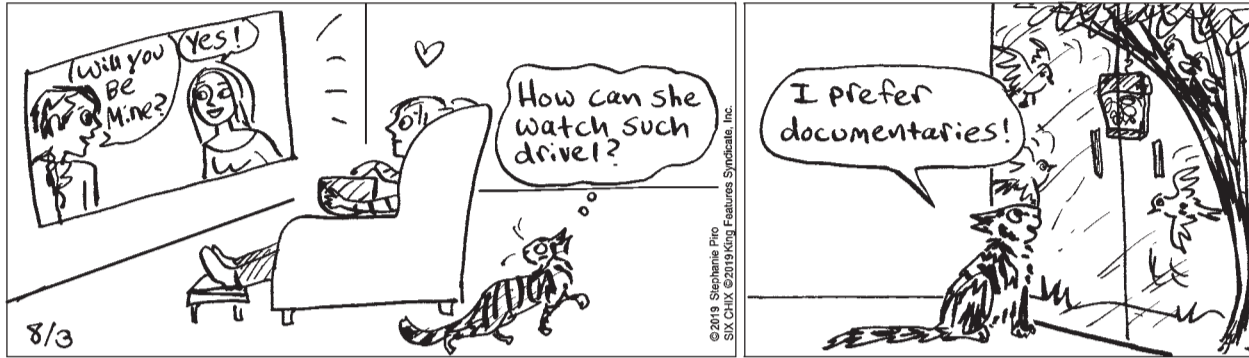
People walk by the logo of Toyota at a show room in Tokyo Friday, Aug. 2, 2019.

Associated Press

Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



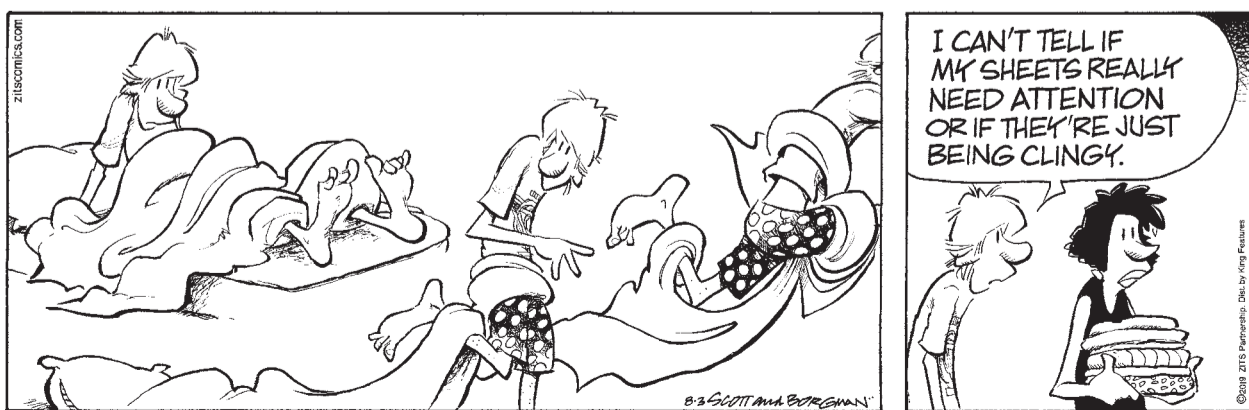
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		3	1	4				2	
9									
					8				7
	9		5						8
8		2		1					9
7			3		5				
1		3							
									5
	5			7	2	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/03

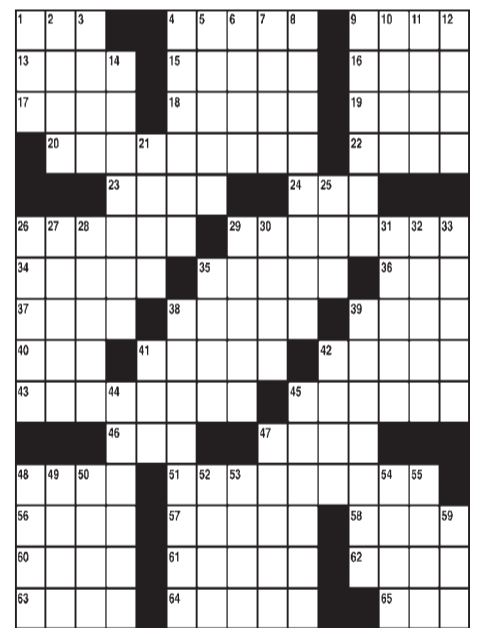
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	9	3	1	7	5	4	6	2
2	5	1	9	4	6	8	7	3
6	7	4	3	2	8	5	1	9
7	3	5	6	8	4	2	9	1
1	4	6	2	9	3	7	5	8
9	2	8	5	1	7	6	3	4
5	6	9	4	3	2	1	8	7
3	8	2	7	6	1	9	4	5
4	1	7	8	5	9	3	2	6

ACROSS

- 1 Reach for the ...; aim high
- 4 Vaccine developer Jonas & his kin
- 9 Foot part
- 13 Marvin & Majors
- 15 Lying fiat
- 16 Farm building
- 17 Slangy reply
- 18 Jibe
- 19 Permanent mark
- 20 Stuck out
- 22 Hawkeye's home
- 23 Bouquet holder
- 24 Spanish article
- 26 Plot craftily
- 29 Points of view
- 34 Donahue & Mickelson
- 35 Use a pepper mill
- 36 Pod veggie
- 37 Scepters
- 38 Fire bell's sound
- 39 Kitten cries
- 40 Indignation
- 41 Seal cracks
- 42 Sweat outlets
- 43 Hand motions
- 45 Employee's pay
- 46 Maroon or scarlet
- 47 Flex
- 48 Positive
- 51 Hugeness
- 56 --and-shut case
- 57 Zeroes in on
- 58 AM/PM divider
- 60 Washerful
- 61 More than enough
- 62 Clothing
- 63 "I ___ Have Eyes for You"
- 64 Forfeits
- 65 Four months from now: abbr.



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/3/19

DOWN

- 1 ___ as a fox
- 2 Hold on to
- 3 Period of time
- 4 Scanty
- 5 Quarrel
- 6 Tolkien's "The ___ of the Rings"
- 7 Part of the leg
- 8 Babe in a nursery?
- 9 St. Francis' home
- 10 Puerto ___
- 11 Manhandle
- 12 "Hava Nagila" dance
- 14 Spades
- 21 Aberdeen caps
- 25 Common conjunction
- 26 Bit of parsley
- 27 Task
- 28 Conceals
- 29 Exams given before a panel
- 30 Bubble gum's color
- 31 La Scala production
- 32 More modern
- 33 Disrespectful
- 35 Epoxy, e.g.
- 38 Red bird

Friday's Puzzle Solved

MRS	NAMPA	DANA										
PEEL	ABOIL	OPEN										
EASY	CONGESTION											
ALI	SHUTS	HANNA										
	DEPOT	TAG										
SHEARS	RUDEST											
NANCY	PLEBE	HEW										
INCH	SEEDS	POPE										
TOE	RENTS	REPEL										
	ISSUES	PICKED										
		HIS	BLOKE									
EBSEN	STOAT	EFG										
ALLEGATION	UPON											
RUIN	PADRE	PERU										
NETS	TRESS	ARE										

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8/3/19

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 39 Shaping | 50 Genuine |
| 41 Reminder | 52 Check line |
| 42 Cookware | 53 Traveler's guides |
| 44 In style | 54 Brown amphibian |
| 45 Perceives | 55 Days of ___; olden times |
| 47 TV's "Uncle Miltie" | 59 "Will & Grace" network |
| 48 Song for one | |
| 49 Preposition | |

Scientists get peek into how some fish change sex as adults

By JEREMY REHM
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If in the beginning there was male and female, fish seem to have forgotten the memo. For nearly 500 fish species, including the clownfish in "Finding Nemo," the great divide between sexes is more like a murky line: If circumstances call for it, the fish can swap their sex, with females turning into males in some species and males turning into females in others.

People think of sex as being fixed, said biologist Erica Todd from the University of Otago in New Zealand, "but there are so many fish that can push it in the other direction."

Scientists have known for decades about the sex trades, but they've had limited understanding of how the exchange happens. In a study published Wednesday in Science Advances, Todd and her colleagues detail the molecular events behind this ability, as well as what keeps mammals stuck as one sex or another. The researchers looked at the bluehead wrasse, a reef fish that swims in small groups of a dominant blue-headed male and a posse of smaller yellow females. Normally the male and females stay as they are, feeding together and occasionally mating. But if a predator happens to snatch up the lead male, the dominant female in the group will become a male. "The sex change in this species is remarkable because it's so quick," Todd said. It takes only minutes to a few hours for the female's behavior to become more territorial and aggressive like a male. In a few days, she courts other females. And after eight to 10 days, she's fully transitioned to a male.

Todd and her team removed the lead males from several wrasse groups in the Florida Keys. As the females changed sexes, the researchers took DNA from cells in the animal's brains and genitals so they could



In this photo provided by Kevin Bryant, a dominant male bluehead wrasse, upper left, defends its spawning territory and a group of females, yellow, off the coast of Florida.

Associated Press

follow what was happening at the genetic level.

They found that removing the males likely stressed females. The hormones released from that stress dial back the activity of the gene that makes the female hormone estrogen, and eventually ovary cells start to die. At the same time, those hormones increase activity in the genes that produce male hormones, and later testicles form.

At a certain point, the reproductive gland "is mostly dying female cells and proliferation of early male cells," Todd said.

But hormones weren't the only thing switching around. The scientists also saw a complete rear-

angement of chemical tags that attach to DNA. These tags turn genes on or off and have specific arrangements in males and females. As female wrasse transitioned to a male, these tags were removed and reorganized, almost as if the fish was being reprogrammed.

"They're sort of poised and ready to go either direction" like a seesaw, she said. The hormones help push it to the male side.

Laura Casas, a biologist in Spain who was not involved in the study, called the results surprising. She expects the findings can apply to other sex-changing fish, including her study animal clownfish, which shift from male to female. □

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Scientists link Europe heat wave to man-made global warming

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The heat wave that smashed temperature records in Western Europe last month was made more likely and intensified by man-made climate change, according to a study published Friday.

The rapid study by a respected team of European scientists should be a warning of things to come, the report's lead author said.

"What will be the impacts on agriculture? What will the impacts on water?" said Robert Vautard of the Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace in France. "This will put really tension in society that we may not be so well equipped to cope with."

The report concluded that the heatwave in late July "was so extreme over continental Western Europe that the observed magnitudes would have been extremely unlikely without climate change."

In countries where mil-



People enjoy the sun and the fountains of the Trocadero gardens in Paris, Thursday July 25, 2019, when a new all-time high temperature of 42.6 degrees Celsius (108.7 F) hit the French capital.

Associated Press

lions of people sweltered through the heat wave, temperatures would have been 1.5 to 3 degrees Celsius (2.7 to 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) lower in a world without human-induced climate change, the study

said.

Global warming is also making such extreme heat more frequent, the study by experts from France, the Netherlands, Britain, Switzerland and Germany found.

The scientists said that the record temperatures recorded in France and the Netherlands could happen every 50-150 years in the world's current climate. Without "human influence on climate," the tempera-

tures would likely happen less than once in 1,000 years.

Vautard said Europe needs to get used to such heat waves, which are likely to become more frequent and intense.

"This will go up and if we don't do anything about climate change, about emissions, these heat waves which today have an amplitude of 42 degrees, they will have three degrees more in 2050 so that is going to make 45 (degrees) roughly speaking," he told The Associated Press.

While the heat wave broke in Western Europe after a few days late last month, the extreme temperatures have since shifted north and are causing massive ice melts in Greenland and the Arctic. The scientists calculated the odds of this type of heat occurring now and how often it would have happened in a world without man-made global warming and compared them. □



In this Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017 file photo an unidentified heroin user, left, is injected by another man, right, on the street near a strip of land sometimes referred to as "Methadone Mile," in Boston.

Associated Press

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. drug

overdose deaths had been most common in Appalachia and other rural areas

Cities again see more overdose deaths than country town

in recent years, but they are back to being more concentrated in big cities, according to a government report Friday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that both urban and rural overdose death rates have been rising, but the urban rate shot up more dramatically after 2015.

That probably is due to a shift in the current overdose epidemic, said Dr. Daniel Ciccarone, a drug policy expert at the University of California, San Francisco.

The epidemic was initially

driven by opioid pain pills, which were often as widely available in the country as in the city. But then many drug users shifted to heroin and fentanyl, and the illegal drug distribution system for those drugs is more developed in cities, Ciccarone said.

Another possible explanation: rising overdose deaths among blacks and Hispanics, including those concentrated in urban areas, he added.

"Early on, this was seen as an epidemic affecting whites more than other

groups," he said. "Increasingly, deaths in urban areas are starting to look brown and black."

The report said the urban overdose death rate surpassed the rural rate in 2016 and 2017. Rates for last year and this year are not yet available, but experts doubt it will flip back again any time soon.

The difference between the urban and rural counties was not large. In 2017, there were 22 overdose deaths per 100,000 people living in urban areas — counties with large and small cities and their suburbs. There were 20 per 100,000 in rural areas — non-suburban counties with fewer than 50,000 residents.

Diego Cuadros, a University of Cincinnati researcher, said the findings are consistent with what he and his colleagues have seen in Ohio. □

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Rudy Pérez shares his journey from poverty to the Grammys

By SIGAL RATNER-ARIAS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Grammy winner Rudy Pérez has worked with superstars like Beyoncé and Julio Iglesias and has been named a Billboard Producer of the Decade. He usually keeps a low profile, but he's stepping out front to inspire others to fight for their dreams, with a new book.

"The Latin Hit Maker," tells the story of his journey from Cuba to the United States and the struggles he had to overcome en route to a career as an award-winning songwriter, producer and arranger. The book was co-written with Robert Nolan and released last week under HarperCollins' Christian imprint Zondervan.

Pérez, who was born in Cuba in poverty, has helped create hits for Christina Aguilera, Il Divo, Natalie Cole, Michael Bolton, Marc Anthony, José Feliciano, Cyndi Lauper, Arturo Sandoval, Andrea Bocelli and others.



This Jan. 6, 2005 file photo shows Latin songwriter Rudy Pérez working on a composition at his home in Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

"I was a kid who sometimes took the wrong direction," the 61-year-old said in a recent interview with The Associated Press. "But my passion for music and for my dream helped me overcome that and achieve my future in a country that

opened its doors for me as an immigrant, as a refugee."

Pérez shares the hardships of his childhood. He spent the first five years of his life visiting his father, who was incarcerated in a remote prison by Fidel Castro's gov-

ernment. And just as his family was about to leave Cuba in a U.S.-sponsored Freedom Flight, a Cuban agent detained his mother at the airport.

"We were almost getting to the plane in the middle of a line of soldiers carrying

rifles on each side, which in itself is already terrifying for a child, when suddenly a guard came out and stood in front of my mom and said 'all of you proceed, she is not going,'" he recalled.

"Thank God we were such rebellious children and we cried so loud, we made such a scene that we managed (to get her free) and my mom was able to leave Cuba," he added in reference to his three siblings.

Once in Miami, he was the target of bullying for not speaking English and, by 15, he had joined a gang. He spent six months in a juvenile detention center, but that time, combined with his religious faith and the support of his united family, allowed him to turn his life around.

Through it all, music was his thing. At 13, he spent a whole year working in a barbed wire factory and helping his father on painting and construction jobs in order to afford his first guitar and amp. □

After 'Bachelorette' finale, Hannah Brown looks to future

NEW YORK (AP) — Now that she's moved on from being ABC's "Bachelorette," Hannah Brown is looking to the future.

Brown says she can't be sure what's next, but wants to use her platform.

"I think there are a lot of opportunities out there for me," said Brown, a 24-year-old former Miss Alabama.

"I appreciate the support, but I don't think that you're done seeing me, I want to be able to use this platform to talk about what change has happened with me and that's through the good times and the bad times," she said, adding that she thinks a lot of women can relate.

On Tuesday's finale, viewers saw Brown get engaged to Jed Wyatt. Their happiness was short-lived because the day after their engagement she learned that he had a girlfriend when he joined the show. Cameras rolled as she confronted him. Also on Tuesday, Brown confirmed that she



This image released by ABC shows Hannah Brown from the season finale of "The Bachelorette." On Tuesday's finale, viewers saw Brown get engaged to Jed Wyatt.

Associated Press

had ended the engagement.

But even though Wyatt made a mistake, Brown said, she believes he's a

good person at his core.

"I have already said my peace and so it's not for me to continue to punish him. I think he learned a lot and I

know that there's goodness inside of him, and I think he is really going to grow as a man from this and I wish him well in his future."

Fans of the show largely supported Brown for her decision and they've been vocal on social media.

"I absolutely feel the support," Brown said. "There have been times where the criticism feels like the loudest, but I've always felt and cared for the people who have just loved me, supported me, understood me throughout even choices and decision that some people, you know, may have made differently. You don't know what it's like to be in this position so it's been really good to have the people just love on me." She said she's moved on from Wyatt, but giving up the dream of a future with him was difficult.

Brown says the hardest thing was realizing that she was not getting the ending she thought she'd have.

"It wasn't necessarily the relationship, it was realizing that it was gonna be different, but that different is OK and that I have a lot to look forward to in my future." □

Documentary series examines cost of small-town vigilantism

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — It's been 38 years since a man named Ken Rex McElroy was shot to death by an angry crowd in the dusty farming community of Skidmore, Missouri. And for 38 years, the case has remained unsolved. McElroy was widely regarded as a gun-toting bully who menaced the community. For years residents

watched him wiggle out of one jam with the law after another. They became increasingly disenchanted with the legal system and took the law into their own hands. As many as 60 people witnessed his murder but no one implicated anyone. Israeli filmmaker Avi Belkin was looking for an interesting story to base a documentary and stumbled onto the McElroy case in a



This image released by SundanceTV shows a scene from "No One Saw a Thing," a documentary series about the 38-year-old unsolved murder of Ken Rex McElroy in Skidmore, Missouri.

Associated Press

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library. He was intrigued by the murder but also fascinated by what came after it — a wave of violence in Skidmore.

"I decided to do a portrait of this small town but also explore the origin of violence in American society through that," Belkin said. "Why is it continuing? And what's the price you pay for vigilante culture?" The answer is in "No One Saw a Thing," a six-episode meditation on what happens when a small town finds itself outside the law. It

airs Thursdays on Sundance TV starting Aug. 1.

Belkin, a rising filmmaker who has been praised for the new film "Mike Wallace Is Here," spoke to as many living participants in Skidmore as possible, as well as law enforcement and McElroy's family. Though residents have grown sick of the media, Belkin somehow earned access.

"I figured it was the first time that an Israeli was ever in that small town," he said. "In a way, the fact that I was an outsider allowed me to

get the story told to me by the people because they really felt they had no judgment on the case. I think they were tired of Americans having prejudged the town."

As he poked around the town's skeletons, Belkin found a legacy of violence following McElroy's slaying: a townswoman stomped to death by her boyfriend, a 20-year-old man who vanished into thin air and the slaying of a pregnant woman whose fetus was cut from her womb. □

Tyler Childers keeps sound firmly rooted in Kentucky



This cover image released by Hickman Holler Records/RCA Records shows "Country Squire," a release by Tyler Childers.

Associated Press

Associated Press
Tyler Childers, "Country Squire" (Hickman Holler/RCA)

The list of country artists making groundbreaking music these days isn't as long as it should be, but it has to

include Tyler Childers. And he's at it again on "Country Squire," a worthy successor to the breakthrough "Purgatory." That album, which appeared on a lot of 2017 "best of" lists, was so firmly set in Kentucky that you could breathe the fumes from the coal trucks.

The new record rises from the same Appalachian roots. And the fact that Childers keeps doing things his way, experimenting fearlessly with influences that feel like they were born in him, makes this as good as anything coming out of Nashville these days. "Country Squire" was produced by Sturgill Simpson and David Ferguson, the same duo Childers worked with on the earlier album.

The sound takes traditional Appalachian instruments — and it's the fiddle-playing and Childers' plaintive singing that plant this album most firmly in the mountains — and amps them up in unexpected ways.

The thing is, Childers seems almost incapable of writing anything trite. So whether he's singing a loving tribute to his used camper, as he does in the title song, or tracing the school bus route of his youth on "Bus Route," it's clear he's not following any path but his own. That's how it is with an artist who's so already established that he's far more likely to lead. And make no mistake, his path is winding out of the eastern Kentucky hills. □

Lucy Lawless' love of true crime leads to new TV show

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The next time you find yourself in a courtroom, look around. There's a chance you might spot Lucy Lawless there, too.

The actress is fascinated by trials and on days when she's not working will often go to court as a member of the public. There you'll find the onetime "Xena: Warrior Princess" trying to look inconspicuous, soaking it all in.

"It just teaches you so much about life and your own society and justice and about yourself," says Lawless. "It's really important that we participate in the democracy. That's a really good way to hold the justice system to the standards of the people."

Lawless, 51, has attended a murder trial in her native New Zealand, jury selection for a grisly case in Louisiana and was even at Jeffrey Epstein's bail hearing in New York last month when the financier faced sex trafficking charges.

On that rainy day, she showed up bedraggled in flip-flops and watched Epstein "shamble in," acting shaky. The whole thing was over quickly. "Sedate is not the right word. It was somber. And methodical. And meticulous. And all over in 20 minutes," she says.

Lawless' fascination with crime — she even will go



This July 22, 2019 photo shows actress Lucy Lawless posing for a portrait in New York to promote her new crime TV series "My Life Is Murder," which premieres on Acorn TV starting Aug. 5.

Associated Press

so far as calling herself a "court ghou" — has filtered into her latest project, the new crime TV series "My Life Is Murder," which premieres on Acorn TV starting Aug. 5. "This much more closely mirrors my own personal interests," she says.

Lawless plays Alexa Crowe, an ex-homicide detective who bakes bread, loves *Crowded House*, speaks German and corrects people's grammar when she's not chasing baddies. She is a fully realized modern woman — unfiltered, sexy, funny and prone to giving unsolicited advice.

In a typical scene, a villain holding a knife orders Alexa to stand up. "Get up slow," he snarls. She responds calmly: "I think you'll find 'slowly' is the adverb." There are differences between Alexa and Lawless, of course. One is the character's love of bread, which on the show is a symbol of new life and nurturing. In real life, Lawless is gluten intolerant.

"It's kind of a joke that I'm always up to my elbows in flour. But I sure earned my intolerance. For 40 years, I ate bread like a mad thing and I know what it tastes

like alright."

The show, set in Melbourne, Australia, explores closed worlds — undertakers, models, escorts and even bicyclist enthusiasts nicknamed MAMILs (middle-aged man in Lycra). The show also tweaks conventions, casting a woman as a mob boss or making Alexa's annoying neighbor a millennial rather than a crusty older woman.

"I just want to give people a little psychic holiday from all the grim stuff so they can recharge the batteries and go back out there and fight the good fight," Law-

less said.

Creator Claire Tonkin wrote Alexa with Lawless in mind. "There's a lot of me in the character and that's the advantage of having writers build something around you. I'm a very lucky woman," says Lawless.

Matthew Graham, the general manager of Acorn TV, which specializes in offering British and Australian TV shows, says Lawless' new show continues the streaming service's push for strong, relatable female leads.

"We love Lucy Lawless. We love what she brings to the screen — her strength, her vivaciousness, her intelligence and her sense of humor. We think that 'My Life Is Murder' is the perfect vehicle to showcase all of that," he says.

Lawless' strength and humor were present when she burst into the public's consciousness as Xena in a show that mixed dark mythology, action, campy humor and sly sexuality. It aired from 1995 to 2001.

Xena was a she-hunky leather queen in a breastplate who battled bad guys with sword, shiv, crossbow, frying pan or the ultimate weapon, a murderous missile called the chakram. She and her sidekick, Gabrielle, were part of one of television's more intriguing gal-pal duos, with many viewers celebrating what they saw as lesbian affection. □

Mario Lopez walks back remarks on kids and gender identity



This Jan. 6, 2019 file photo shows Mario Lopez at the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mario Lopez apologized Wednesday for telling conservative commentator Candace Owens that it's "dangerous" and "alarming" for parents to honor the wishes of young children who identify with a gender other than the one assigned at birth.

"The comments I made were ignorant and insensitive, and I now have a deeper understanding of how hurtful they were," the longtime "Extra" host said in a statement released by his

publicist.

"I have been and always will be an ardent supporter of the LGBTQ community, and I am going to use this opportunity to better educate myself. Moving forward I will be more informed and thoughtful," Lopez said.

He outraged many when he told Owens on her PragerU YouTube show that, like Owens, he is "blown away" when parents tolerate very young children who make gender determinations that early. Owens asked Lopez about

"weird trends" in Hollywood and mentioned that Charlize Theron recently said her 7-year-old, Jackson, did not identify as a boy. Owens described as a "new Hollywood mentality" such celebrity parents who believe their kids have the "mental authority" to choose a gender.

Lopez agreed and added: "I'm never one to tell anyone how to parent their kids, obviously, and I always say if you come from a place of love, you really can't go wrong." □

The Green Big Apple: New Yorkers document the city's plants

By EMILIANO RODRIGUEZ MEGA

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Susan Hewitt found a special prize recently while wandering the streets of New York.

The 70-year-old spotted a mysterious patch of bright green leaves with tiny white flowers in a raised flower bed. It turned out to be tropical Mexican clover, a weed common in South America and Florida's orange groves, but never recorded before in the state. "I get a tremendous kick out of identifying things," she said. "There's nothing more exciting."

Hewitt volunteers for an ambitious project to photograph all the wild plants that dwell in New York City. On Friday, the organizers announced that citizen scientists had catalogued more than 26,000 sightings, and documented new populations of invasive species and native weeds that seem to be disappearing, like the green comet milkweed.

Started last year by scientists at the New York Botanical Garden, the effort makes up for the lack of manpower to survey the entire city.

"There are just not enough of us," said Regina Alvarez, a professor at Dominican College in New York who isn't part of the effort. "What we're studying requires a lot of data and it's really hard for the number of scientists



In this July 26, 2019 photo, Daniel Atha holds specimen of swamp rose he collected in 2014, when working to document all Central Park's naturally occurring plants in New York.

Associated Press

that are out there to do all that work."

The project so far has attracted 730 volunteers armed with smartphones who've hit the streets for the quest, called New York City EcoFlora.

Hewitt, a self-described naturalist who grew up near the English village where Charles Darwin lived, made her discovery last month in front of a massive apartment building in Manhattan's Upper East Side. She fires up her iPhone X every time she spots something new or interesting. A fragile tree seedling sticking out of a manhole cover? Click.

A white petunia hidden among weeds? Click.

Botanist Brian Boom, who heads the project, said the scientific community wasn't really thinking about the need to engage with regular folks when he was a graduate student in the early 1980s.

"There was a sense of, 'This is what we do. And you can go out and look at the birds and that's great. But, you know, we'll do the science,'" he said.

Not anymore. Scientists have become increasingly aware of how citizens can contribute to their research. Digital platforms like iNatu-

ralist, a mobile app where citizens share their observations of plants and animals, estimate that people have made dozens of noteworthy discoveries around the world. And a 2017 study found that more than half the material in the Global Biodiversity Information Facility — an open-access database with information about all types of life on Earth — comes from volunteers.

"Many citizens are experts in their own way," said Mark Chandler, a field biologist at Earthwatch Institute in Boston who isn't part of the project. "If we can get

them to start recording the (biodiversity) in their backyards, they can really make a huge contribution."

Citizen scientists in the EcoFlora effort have documented at least six plants never recorded before in New York state and two new plants for North America. The observations already are helping prepare for future threats. In July, the project challenged its volunteers to locate every tree of heaven in the city. These rapidly growing trees with pale gray bark and a stinky smell are the preferred host of an Asian moth that can harm crops and forests. Mapping the host plant will allow researchers know where to look for the insect once it shows up.

"It hasn't been found in New York (state) yet. But it'll come," said botanist Daniel Atha. "For sure, it'll come."

Volunteers have their own reasons for participating. Zihao Wang, 29, used to look for plants on his own, exploring the green patches he found on Google Maps. Now, he's one of the most active members with 538 species identified so far. When he's not hunting for plants as a hobby, he works for the city's parks department.

"I want to see a version of New York City that's different from everybody else's," Wang said. "I'm always surprised by how much nature still exists here." □



In this July 27, 2019 photo, Susan Hewitt photographs a daisy-like weed known as 'shaggy soldier' and adds it to iNaturalist, the app she uses to participate in the New York City EcoFlora project.

Associated Press



In this July 26, 2019 photo, Daniel Atha, left, and Brian Boom, right, look at two New York Botanical Garden specimens of a hardy plant called Italian arum in New York.

Associated Press